

Disinfecting fishing tackle to control fish disease

Anglers fishing abroad or within areas in England and Wales where there are fish disease outbreaks, can help to prevent the spread of fish disease by disinfecting fishing tackle after use.

The Defra leaflet "Keep Fish Diseases Out" highlights the importance of this and suggests suitable methods for disinfecting fishing tackle and clothing.



What methods can be used?

There are several disinfection methods available. Two commonly used methods are:

- thoroughly drying equipment for a minimum of 48 hours, preferentially in direct sunlight;
- chemical disinfectants (primarily Iodine-based solutions (iodophors or Virkon[®] S).

Of these, drying in sunlight is preferable, but may not always be practical. In this case, chemical disinfectants can be used.

How to disinfect your tackle

1. Equipment should be cleaned of all mud and debris.
2. It should then be immersed or sprayed with the chosen disinfectant. An immersion/exposure time of at least 10 to 15 minutes is required.
3. The disinfectant should then be rinsed off with clean water and disinfectant washings must be disposed of in a way that does not harm the environment; they should **never** be tipped into water containing fish or other aquatic life.

Some disinfectants may contain hazardous chemicals therefore it is important that product labels and manufacturers instructions are followed. Protective clothing and equipment should be worn when diluting disinfectants to protect the eyes and skin. If in doubt seek advice from the suppliers. Manufacturers guidance on disposal should also be followed.

What disinfectants can be used?

Iodophors: This includes products such as Iosan CCT, Deosan Iodophor Udderwash and FAM[®] 30. When active, iodophors are a dark brown solution, however they become colourless when inactivated by prolonged exposure to light. Dilution of iodophors varies between products, therefore manufacturer's guidelines should always be adhered to.

Virkon[®] S: This is available in both powder and tablet form. It should be made up to a 1% solution with water to form a pink solution. The solution will stay active for around 5 days. The solution should be kept out of direct sunlight.

Suppliers of disinfectants

Iodophors:

- **Iosan CCT** (Novartis Animal Health UK Ltd.), www.novartis.co.uk, Tel: 01223 833634;
- **Deosan Iodophor Udderwash** (JohnsonDiversey UK Ltd.), www.johnsondiversev.co.uk, Tel: 01604 405311;
- **FAM[®] 30** (Evans Vanodine International), www.evansvanodine.co.uk, Tel: 01772 322200.

Virkon[®] S:

- **Virkon[®] S** (Antec International – A DuPont Company), www.antecint.co.uk, Tel: 01787 377305.

For further information

National Fisheries Technical Team – Fish Health, Ageing and Species
Environment Agency, Bromholme Lane, Brampton, Cambridgeshire, PE28 4NE
Tel: 01480 483802; Fax: 01480 433873
fish.health@environment-agency.gov.uk

Fish Health Inspectorate

Cefas Weymouth Laboratory, Barrack Road, The Nothe, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8UB
Tel: 01305 206600, Fax: 01305 206601
fish.health.inspectorate@cefas.co.uk

The information contained within this leaflet is for guidance purposes only. The manufacturer's product information and safety instructions must be read before the product is used and must be adhered to. Reference to specific disinfectant products should not be construed as a recommendation.

customer service line

08708 506 506

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

incident hotline

0800 80 70 60

floodline

0845 988 1188