

Fact Sheet

Steps for Cleaning and Disinfecting Foot Baths

To prevent the spread of bacteria and fungus, foot baths must be cleaned and disinfected using the following procedures:

A. After each client:

1. Drain the foot bath completely.
2. Wash foot bath basin with detergent and water and use a brush to remove dirt. Rinse with water.
3. Refill foot bath with lukewarm water just above the jets.
4. Add a disinfectant approved by the manufacturer to the water in the foot bath. If using 5% household chlorine bleach, add 6 tablespoons of bleach for each gallon of water in the foot bath (90 ml to 4.5 litres).
5. Activate jets and flush for a minimum of 10 minutes.
6. Drain the foot bath.



B. At the end of each day:

1. Using a screwdriver, remove the screen from the foot bath basin. Remove the drain plug. Clean the screen and drain plug with detergent and a brush.
2. Soak the screen and drain plug for 10 minutes in a solution of 1 teaspoon of 5% household bleach for each cup of lukewarm water (5 ml to 250 ml).
3. Replace screen and drain plug.
4. Refill foot bath with water just above the jets. Add 2 or 3 tablespoons of low sudsing detergent, turn on the jets, flush for 5 minutes, drain and fill again with clean water to rinse out the detergent. Drain.
5. Refill foot bath with lukewarm water just above the jets.
6. Add a disinfectant approved by the manufacturer to the water in the foot bath. If using 5% household chlorine bleach, add 6 tablespoons of bleach for each gallon of water in the foot bath (90 ml to 4.5 litres).
7. Activate jets and flush for 10 minutes
8. Drain the foot bath and dry.

Do not use oil-based products in the foot bath or on the client's feet or legs before they use the foot bath. Oil will build up in the recirculation lines and provide a breeding ground for bacteria.

Never mix chlorine bleach with ammonia products. The combination produces toxic chlorine gas.

**CONTACT YOUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
PROTECTION OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION**