



Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD)

Disinfectant Guidelines for Farms and Animal Facilities

Effective cleaning and disinfection are critical components of biosecurity and play a central role in preventing the introduction and spread of FMD on farms and within animal facilities. Disinfectants must be used correctly, at the appropriate concentrations, and on properly cleaned surfaces to ensure maximum effectiveness.

This document provides guidance on commonly used disinfectants, their appropriate applications, and important safety considerations. It is intended to support farmers, animal handlers, municipal officials, and biosecurity personnel in implementing practical and effective FMD control measures.

Strict adherence to these guidelines will help reduce viral survival in the environment and strengthen overall disease containment efforts.

**Issued on 18 February 2026 by the Garden Route Multi-Agency Command Centre
Version 2.0**

Disinfectant	Use
Slaked lime (Calcium hydroxide)	Works well for disinfecting soil, kraal areas, and footwear. It raises the pH to levels at which the FMD virus cannot easily survive.
Soda ash (Sodium carbonate)	Works well for disinfecting contaminated surfaces such as concrete floors, equipment, and vehicle tyres. It is mildly corrosive and should be handled with care.
Caustic soda (Sodium hydroxide)	Works well for disinfecting heavily contaminated surfaces, equipment, and animal housing areas. It is highly corrosive. Always add the powder to water — never water to the powder — to prevent dangerous reaction
Household vinegar (Acetic acid, 4–8%)	Works well for disinfecting equipment and smaller surfaces where organic material has been removed. Surfaces must be thoroughly cleaned before application for effective results.
Household bleach (Approx. 3% Sodium hypochlorite in South Africa)	Works well for disinfecting equipment, footwear, and hard surfaces. Prepare fresh solutions and use immediately after mixing, as effectiveness decreases over time. Always add sodium hypochlorite to water, not water to the concentrate. It is corrosive and may damage certain materials.
Stalosan F	Works well for disinfecting footwear, footbaths, and stable or housing floors. Effective in areas with high moisture and organic load.
F10CL (General farm disinfectant)	Works well for hosing down vehicles, disinfecting equipment, washing hands, and general biosecurity use around farm entrances and facilities.
Virkon S (Potassium peroxymonosulphate-based disinfectant)	Works well for disinfecting equipment, vehicles, footwear, housing facilities, and biosecurity stations. Effective against a broad range of viruses when mixed and applied according to manufacturer guidelines.
Envirosept SC	Disinfectant against FMD and broad spectrum Viruses. Envirosept SC is tested to a Log5 reduction at a rate of 5ml per L water, with a 5-minute contact time and can be applied to Disinfect Vehicles, Equipment, Animal housing and Foot Baths. ssApply Envirosept SC by Spraying, Fogging & Foaming.

Suspected cases of Foot-and-Mouth Disease must be reported immediately to the nearest State Veterinarian. A person can also contact the Garden Route Emergency Call Centre.

Garden Route Emergency Call Centre: 044 805 5071 / 081 709 5193

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