



## Guidance for Operators: HOW TO CLEAN A FOOT BATH

**TYPES OF FOOT BATHS:** Many premises that provide pedicure services use foot baths to prep their client's feet. There are two main types of foot baths that are used: non-recirculating soak tubs or basins & recirculating soak tubs or basins. Be sure to use the appropriate method for cleaning and disinfecting for the type of foot bath used at your facility.

### NON-RECIRCULATING SOAK TUBS INCLUDE:

Stainless steel or plastic tubs, basins, bowls, or other containers that are meant to be emptied after each use. Tubs/basins are to have surfaces that are easily cleaned and disinfected. Those made of stainless steel may be preferred over plastic.

### RECIRCULATING SOAK TUBS OR BASINS INCLUDE:

Footbaths, foot thrones, pedicure chairs, jetted tubs. These are to be drained and thoroughly cleaned and disinfected according to the manufacturer's instructions after each client use. This includes all surfaces and the recirculating system.

continued ...

# Guidance for Operators: How to Clean a Foot Bath

## NON-RECIRCULATING SOAK TUBS INCLUDE:

Non-recirculating soak tubs and basins must meet the following criteria: Have surfaces that are non-porous and easily cleaned;

- Be compatible with the disinfectants used to clean them;
- Be disinfected with a low-level or intermediate-level disinfectant, depending on the intended use of the tub or basin:
  - Tubs or basins used for hand soaks (e.g., manicures bowls) require low-level disinfection.
  - Tubs or basins used for foot soaks (e.g., footbaths, pedicure bowls) require intermediate level disinfection.
  - See [Disinfection Fact Sheet](#) for more information on approved disinfectants.
- Be filled in a manner that prevents contamination of the water or other liquid.
- Be emptied and have the surface cleaned and disinfected after each client use.

For basins or tubs that are not easily cleaned and disinfected, it may be possible to use a disposable single-use liner during the soak procedure or service. If a single-use liner is used, the basin or tub is to be cleaned and disinfected with a low-level disinfectant at the end of the day. If there is contamination of the basin or container while a single-use liner is in use (i.e., a tear or opening in the liner) the basin or container is to be cleaned and disinfected before the next client.



## RECIRCULATING SOAK TUBS AND BASINS:

If the manufacturer's instructions for cleaning and disinfecting the recirculating system are not available, the following are to be done:

- Drain the tub and thoroughly clean all surfaces with water and detergent.
- Fill tub with detergent and warm water to above the fill line and turn on the recirculating system.
- Let it run for five minutes. Drain and rinse with clean water to remove any leftover solution.
- Use an intermediate-level disinfectant according to the manufacturer's instructions.
  - If no instructions are available, an intermediate level disinfectant with bleach or alcohol can be used. The contact time is 10 minutes for both (1:50 chlorine bleach solution or 70 - 90% ethyl or isopropyl alcohol).
  - See [Disinfection Fact Sheet](#) for more information.
- Fill the tub or basin to above the jets with the disinfectant.
- Turn on the recirculating system and allow it to run for duration of the disinfectant's contact time as designated by the manufacturer's instructions.
- After the system has run for the designated time, drain the disinfectant.
- Fill the tub or basin with warm water to above jets and run the system for a few minutes to rinse out the remaining disinfectant, where required.
- Drain the tub or basin thoroughly before use by the next client. Any pooling liquid is to be dried thoroughly.
- Clean, disinfect, and dry all cleaning and disinfection supplies (e.g., brushes, cloths, rags) at the end of each day.

## QUESTIONS?

If you have any questions, please contact your area Public Health Inspector at **1-800-922-0096**.