Footbaths - Infection Prevention and Control

Do footbaths have to be cleaned and disinfected between clients?
• Yes. Footbaths must be cleaned and disinfected between clients.
• Footbaths must also be cleaned and disinfected at the end of each day.

Does the footbath screen have to be removed, cleaned and disinfected?
• Yes. If the footbath is pipeless or non-recirculating, then the screen must be cleaned and disinfected between clients.
• If the footbath has pipes or is recirculating, then the screen must be removed, cleaned and disinfected at the end of each day.

How do you clean and disinfect a pipeless footbath?
Between clients you must:
• Clean the tub with soap and water. Use a scrub brush.*
• Rinse with clean water.
• Disinfect the tub with a disinfectant that has a Tuberculocidial (TB) claim on the label. Spray the footbath thoroughly and follow the manufacturer instructions.
  OR
  Disinfect the tub with a bleach solution. The solution can be made by mixing 10 ml of bleach with 495 ml of water or 2 teaspoons of bleach with 2 cups of water. It must be made fresh daily. Spray the footbath with the bleach solution and let it sit for 10 minutes.

If the footbath has a screen, then the screen must be removed, cleaned and disinfected between clients and at the end of each day.

How do you clean and disinfect a footbath with pipes?
Between clients you must:
• Clean the tub with soap and water. Use a scrub brush.*
• Rinse with clean water.
• Disinfect the tub with a disinfectant that has a TB claim on the label. Circulate the disinfectant through the pipes and follow the manufacturer instructions.

OR

Disinfect the tub with a bleach solution (this may be corrosive to your pipes). The solution can be made by mixing 20 litres of water with 404 ml of bleach, approximately the volume of a small drinking water bottle. Circulate the solution through the pipes for at least 10 minutes.

At the end of each day, the screen must be removed, cleaned and disinfected.

**What if I use a single-use disposable liner?**

• You still need to clean and disinfect your footbath between clients.

Between clients you must:

• Clean the tub with soap and water. Use a scrub brush.*

• Rinse with clean water.

• Disinfect the tub with a low level disinfectant by thoroughly spraying the tub. Follow the manufacturer instructions.

OR

Disinfect the tub by using a bleach solution. The solution can be used by mixing 5 ml of bleach with 21⁄2 litres water or 1 teaspoon of bleach with 10 cups water. Spray the tub with the solution and let it soak for 10 minutes. The bleach solution must be made fresh daily.

**What more can I do to protect my clients from infection?**

• Tell your clients to avoid waxing or shaving legs 24 hours before having a pedicure.

* At the end of each day clean and soak the scrub brush in a disinfectant.