

# 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 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:

- **Deosan Iodophor Udderwash** (WFS Ltd.) [www.wfsltd.co.uk](http://www.wfsltd.co.uk) Tel: 01270 252001
- **FAM® 30** (Evans Vanodine International) [www.evansvanodine.co.uk](http://www.evansvanodine.co.uk) Tel: 01772 322200

### Virkon® S:

- **Virkon® S** (Disinfectants by Chemours) [www.chemours.com](http://www.chemours.com) Tel: 01787 377305

Good biosecurity measures are key to keeping our rivers and fisheries healthy. Invasive plants and animals harm the environment, reduce the quality of fishing and spread disease. Please help to stop them by following the Check, Clean, Dry code.

[www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry](http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry)



## Further information

If you require more information about disinfecting or fish diseases please contact:

### Natural Resources Wales

Email: [fisheries.wales@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:fisheries.wales@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk)

Customer Care Centre, Ty Cambria, 29 Newport Rd, Cardiff, CF24 0TP

Tel: 0300 065 3000 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm); 0800 80 70 60 (24hrs)

Or

### Fish Health Inspectorate

Email: [fish.health.inspectorate@cefaf.co.uk](mailto:fish.health.inspectorate@cefaf.co.uk)

Cefas Weymouth Laboratory, Barrack Road, The Nothe, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 8UB

Tel: 01305 206600

**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.**