

Clean dairies for **safe milk**

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Cow dung and urine in dairy parlours and other buildings on a dairy farm have a negative effect on the health and safety of cows, dairy workers and the milk collected. For this reason, it is very important that these buildings are always kept clean.

Concrete floors should be scraped clean regularly, usually with a tractor with front or rear scraper, chain scrapers, manually or with a cable-drawn scraper blade. The manure is then either taken directly to the fields, where it is strewn, to a storage tank or sedimentation container, a treatment system or a manure dam.



Concrete floors should be scraped clean regularly

The floors of alleys and holding areas should be slightly sloped from side to side so that they can be washed down with water under pressure without the dirty water then flowing back over an area that has already been washed down. Even when the floors are sloped correctly, better cleaning results are obtained by constructing the centre of the floor 25mm higher than the sides. The water will then flow from the centre of the floor to the kerbing, where most of the manure collects. However, this construction makes it more difficult to scrape the floors.

Grooves in the upper concrete layer of the floor, provide better footing for the cows and aid in water turbulence. These floors are flushed cleaner than smooth concrete floors.

Once the floors have been scraped and washed down, they must also be scrubbed with a broom.

The dairy building

The ease with which the manure is flushed or removed reduces as the particle sizes increase, while particle sizes increase as the speed of the water increases. If a slow flushing speed is used, more water has to be used for a longer time. The flow depth of the flushing water can vary between 50mm and a depth where the water cannot spill over the kerbing, usually not deeper than 150mm.

The volume of water needed to flush the floors depends on the size and coarseness of the floor, the frequency of flushing and whether the manure is wet or dry. [UM](#)

(Source: ARC)