

1. When drying off cows it is very important that **strict hygienic protocols** are followed to avoid introduction of new infections. Infection can cause damage to the teat canal and increases the risk of mastitis.
2. **Do not rush**- take your time. Drying off to be carried out in the parlour after the end of milking (once it has been cleaned down). Use **fresh clean gloves**.
3. The ideal time to do this is after milking once the parlour has been washed down so the environment is clean and the cow has been milked out.
4. If the teat is visibly dirty, wash with clean warm water and dry thoroughly.
5. Starting with the **two teats furthest away**, pre-dip or use a fast acting disinfectant on the teat, leave on for 30 seconds and wipe dry using clean paper towel for each teat.
6. Strip the teat to remove bugs from the milk canal.
7. Clean the teat ends with surgical spirit and cotton wool doing the **two teats furthest away first**.
8. Ensure teats are thoroughly **DRY** before commencing tubing.
9. If using dry cow antibiotic tubes (see table below) infuse doing the **closest two teats first**, then clean teats with surgical spirit again furthest teats first and then let them dry.
10. If no dry cow antibiotic tubes are needed skip step 9 and infuse internal teat sealant, **closest two teats first**, making sure to pinch the base of the teat to keep the sealant within the teat. Do not massage the teat.
11. Once tubing is complete dip each teat using proprietary post-dip. NB. Dip cup to be emptied and cleaned weekly.
12. Apply 'Spot-On' to dry cows to prevent summer mastitis during months where flies are a problem.
13. Leave cows standing in a **clean yard for at least 30 minutes** to allow the teat canal to close and avoid walking cows through footbath or other contaminated area.
14. Record all treatments in the diary

	Definitions	Products	Milk withdrawal
Low SCC * (need to fit all the criteria to be eligible)	Last 3 recordings below 150,000 AND No clinical mastitis during lactation AND CMT negative on all quarters before drying off	Orbeseal	0
High SCC	Any of the last recordings >150,000 or any clinical mastitis during lactation	Orbeseal + Antibiotic	*Milk withdrawal times vary between antibiotic tubes

*Drying off tube selection needs discussion with your farm vet.