



# POST-INCUBATION CHECKLIST!

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## Incubator Cleaning & Fumigating - 101 -

Microbes in an incubator can significantly reduce hatchability. Cleaning and disinfecting equipment must be standard operating procedures. Disinfect, incubators, hatchers and their racks with quaternary ammonia or a commercial disinfectant after each hatch. The inside of the common incubator is a good spot for growing all types of organisms other than the eggs we would like to grow!

The very nature of the incubator, warm and moist, makes it ideal for the growth of the many different bugs we don't want to see! Add the waste products and bugs introduced to the incubator at hatching time, and Voilà like a Kombucha, we have a good mixture of organisms which can be detrimental to our longer-term hatching success.

### **Effective incubator cleaning consists of three steps:**

#### **Step 1**

Physical cleaning is best when done as soon as possible after the removal of the chicks at hatch time. Allowing the material from the hatching process to dry within the incubator greatly increases the workload of sterilising.

Physical cleaning is typically best when assisted by a detergent. The froth and bubble from detergents isn't a disinfectant or a sanitiser, but they're cleaners.

#### **Step 2**

Once the surfaces are physically clean, a sanitiser will kill bacteria, virus and fungus spores so these bugs can't contaminate the next batch of eggs. Virkon and F10 are effective sanitising agents.

#### **Step 3**

A very common problem with incubators and hatchers of all sizes, from the tiniest to the most impressive, is corrosion caused by moisture and disinfectants. Cleaning an incubator involves getting it wet, then spraying with disinfectants. Many of the disinfectants are naturally corrosive and end in degraded incubator components. However, the corrosive nature of most of those products greatly reduces once they're dry.



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Washing an incubator, leaving it wet and storing it away on the shelf could be a good way to possess a failure as soon after begin next season. After washing, and sanitising, dry the incubator by leaving the unit endure a minimum of each day some to completely dry out. This ensures no moisture is left within the system to corrode away at vital components.

Following these steps will enable your incubator to perform at its best and lowers the danger of reduced hatchability.

