

DRENCH WISE

Do it once, Do it right


Effective and accurate drenching is important for animal health and productivity. It needs strategic decision making and should be part of a parasite management plan.

Knowing which drench will work on your parasites and using the drench properly is key to managing parasites effectively and ensures the investment you have made in the cost of drenching is not wasted. Consequences of using an ineffective drench and poor technique can be serious; drench resistance increases, animal production and profitability suffers, stock deaths increase due to high parasite burden and some drenches can be toxic when incorrect dose rates are used.

Parasites may not be the only reason stock may be thin or scouring – know what you are treating.

Which drench to choose

- Not all drenches work on all parasites, use the right drench for the job.
- A faecal egg count reduction test (FECRT), carried out every 2-3 years, will help you select the most useful drench for your farm.

 **Keep monitoring to see how effective your drench, drenching technique, and drenching programme are.**

Stock

- Weigh a random sample of animals (at least 40) and drench to the heaviest weight.
- Estimating weight can lead to underdosing, some parasites not being killed and an increased chance of developing drench resistance.

 **Animal weights in the mob may vary widely, draft into light and heavy mobs (preferably using scales not by eye), and dose to the heaviest weight in each group.**

Handling drench

- Read the drench label, check and record the expiry date, batch number, withholding period and note any precautions or special instructions.
- Calculate the correct dose based on the heaviest animal weight.
- Shake the drum of drench well before filling the backpack to ensure even mixing.

Drench equipment

- Regularly service drench guns and have more than one ready to use.
- Check your drench gun for leakages or backflow and replace valves and washers if necessary.
- Check drench gun nozzle for damage and rough edges.
- Calibrate drench guns to check they deliver the correct volume. Use drench not water for calibration.
- After drenching, rinse the drench gun, disassemble, wash with warm water, lubricate all moving parts and re-assemble carefully.

 **Fix any equipment that is broken as soon as it happens.**

Delivery technique

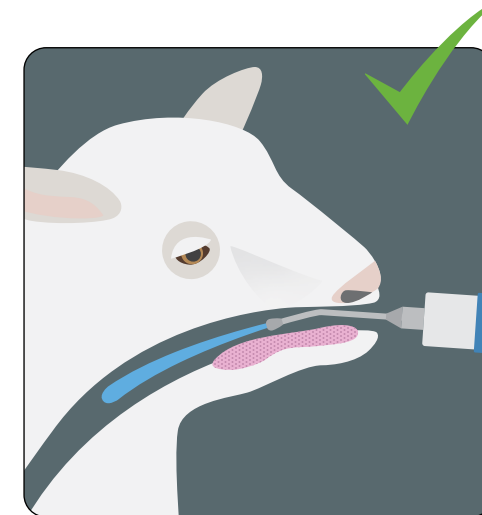
Drench can be delivered to livestock orally, by injection, as a pour-on and by controlled release capsules. The ease of use and effectiveness of each method can vary. Drenching is a skilled job and should not be rushed. Check the manufacturer's instructions and review the drenching procedure guidelines on the Wormwise website if you are unsure – www.wormwise.co.nz.

Oral drenching



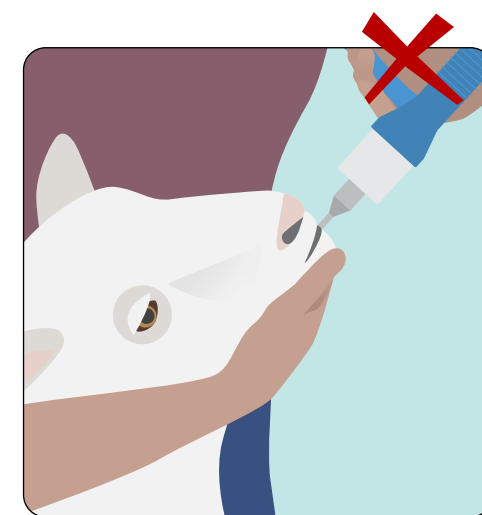
HEAD HORIZONTAL

Hold the animal firmly with the head horizontal. Carefully introduce the nozzle into the side of the mouth and over the back of the tongue.



DRENCH GUN ON TOP OF TONGUE

Administer the drench and withdraw the gun. Release the animal when it has swallowed.



HEAD HELD TOO HIGH

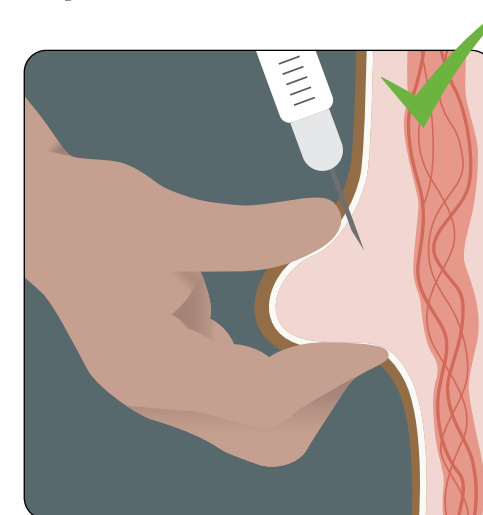
Drench in the lungs can be fatal.



DRENCH TOO FAST

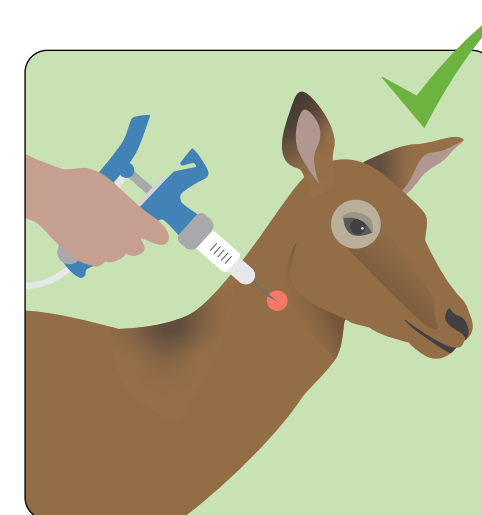
Fast drenching means animals may be underdosed. Avoid injury to teeth or throat.

Injectable treatments



INJECT UNDER THE SKIN

Inject under the skin, not into the muscle, with a small gauge needle. Only inject dry and clean animals.



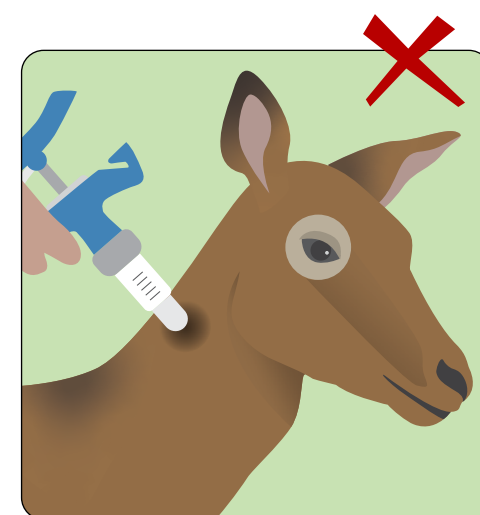
CORRECT POSITION

Inject into the front half of the neck.



INJECTION TOO LOW

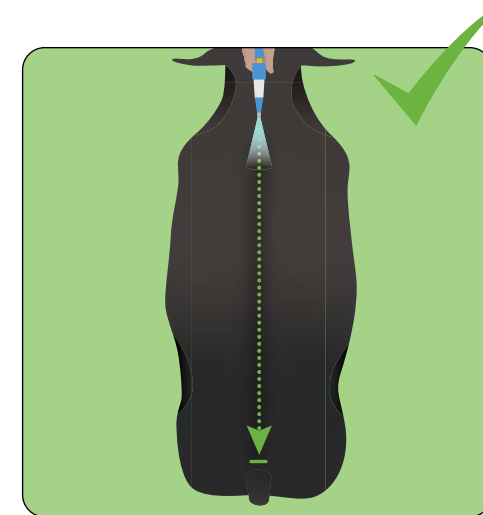
Careless injection can cause infection resulting in carcase damage and downgrading at slaughter.



TOO HARD

Pressing too hard means the needle can accidentally go into the muscle and may increase the withholding period.

Pour-on treatments



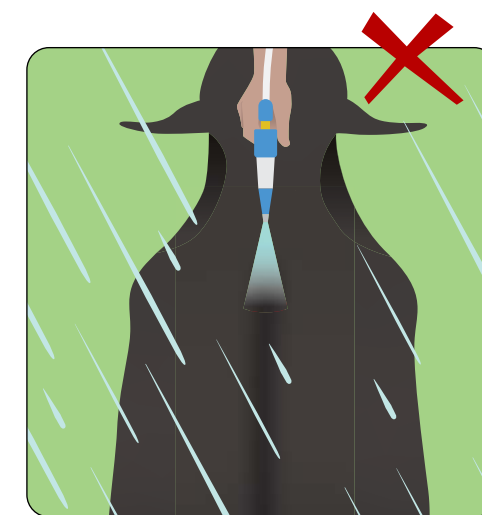
FROM SHOULDER TO TAIL BASE

Apply along the midline of the back from shoulders to tail-base (unless advised otherwise).



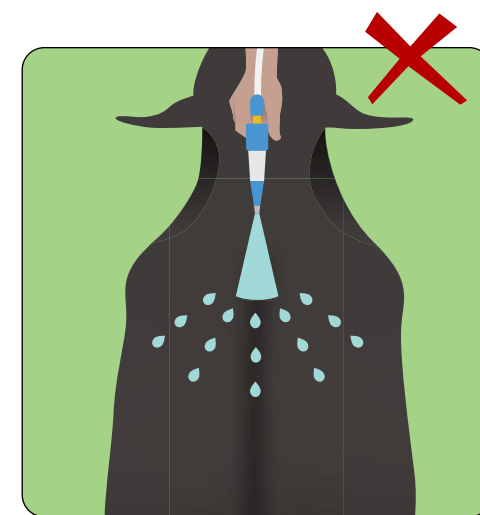
TOO SHORT

Short drenching will not give even coverage and will be less effective.



NOT IN THE RAIN

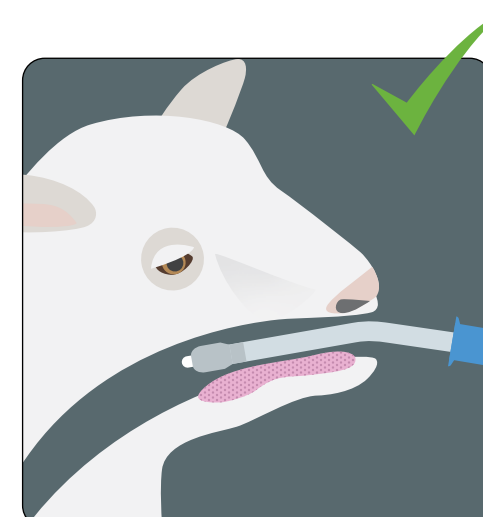
If the drench is not rain-fast, avoid using in the rain or on wet stock.



TOO FAST

Drenching too fast means an incorrect dose may be applied and the drench will be less effective.

Controlled release capsules



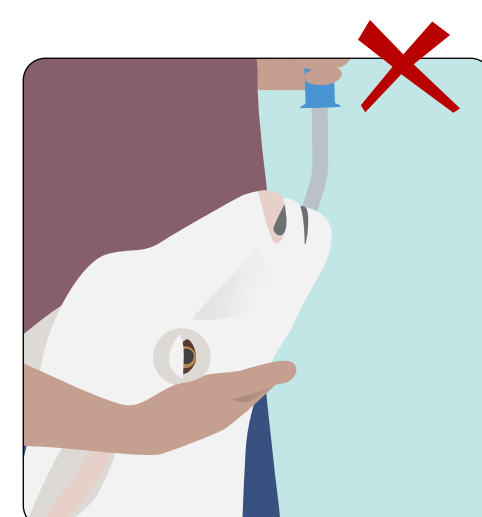
MATCH ANGLE OF APPLICATOR

Control the head and neck. Match angle of applicator by lifting chin or extending neck. Insert applicator at the side of the mouth and on to tongue. Avoid the teeth, this may damage the capsule affecting performance.



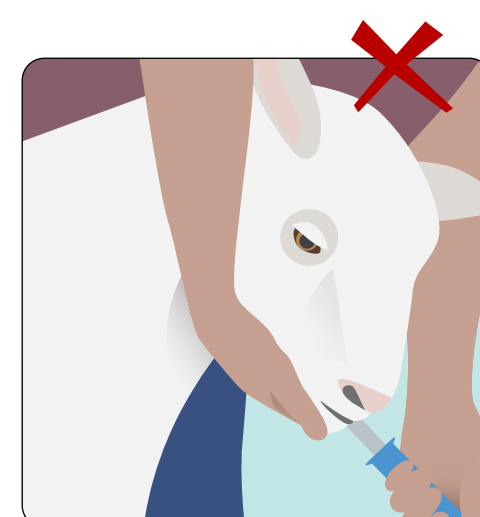
ALLOW SWALLOWING

Swallowing draws capsule and applicator into the back of the throat. When applicator inserted and grip of applicator is at the corner of the mouth, press the release button, hold down and remove the applicator. Make sure animal swallows before releasing.



HEAD FORCED UP

Forcing the head up can fatally damage animal's throat. Do not force the applicator down the throat. If there is resistance, remove the applicator and try again.



HEAD FACING DOWN

If the head is facing down, the capsule will not be swallowed.