

Is Your Wash Water Hot Enough? Cold Weather Tips

Our Goal

When we wash calf milk feeding and mixing equipment we want the wash water temperature to measure at least 120° (49°) at the end of the wash-up job.

Rinse in lukewarm water

What can we do to keep our wash water up to 120°? First, rinse all the cold stuff off the equipment before putting it into the wash water. Using lukewarm water, rinse off snow, ice, and frozen manure. Rinse out icy leftover milk or milk replacer.

Warm up the sink

Second, run a few gallons of straight hot water into the sink. That will take the chill off all that stainless steel. Drain it out.

Start with really hot water

Third, start your wash with water that measures at least 130°. To do this you probably will have to wear rubber gloves to protect your hands. If the hot water heater hasn't heated the water back up to its maximum temperature, work on another job before washing equipment.

Get a long handled brush

Fourth, try to keep your hands out of the water as much as possible. A scrub brush with a longer handle makes a big difference in how deep you have to stick your hands into the hot water. That way you can start with higher temperature water.

To get things clean, the water has to remain above 120°

Remember, we want the equipment to come out of the wash water cleaner than when it goes in to be washed. When the wash temperature falls below 120° the

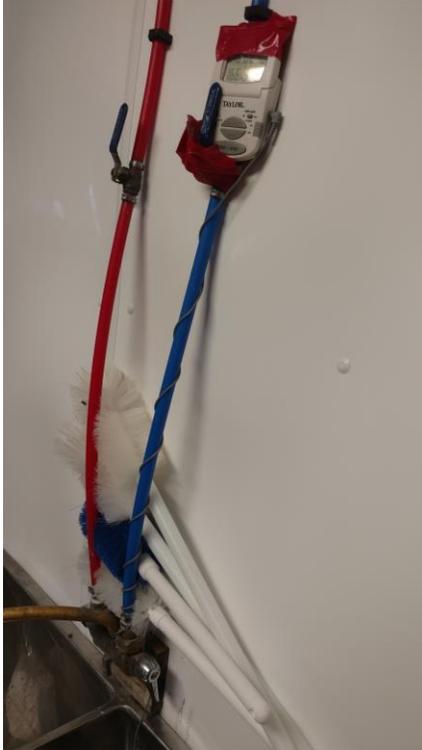
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milk solids in the wash water start to stick to the equipment. This may make equipment dirtier coming out of the wash water than going into it. One dairy hooked up a remote temperature sensor as show in this picture with the lead going down into the wash water.



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