



# CREATING A PHYSICAL BARRIER

## BETWEEN THE CONTROLLED ACCESS ZONE (CAZ) AND THE RESTRICTED AREA (RA)

Working to keep viruses (e.g. HPAI, IBH, Reovirus, etc.) and bacteria (e.g. *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, *E. coli*) out of the RA via biosecurity at the entrance involves

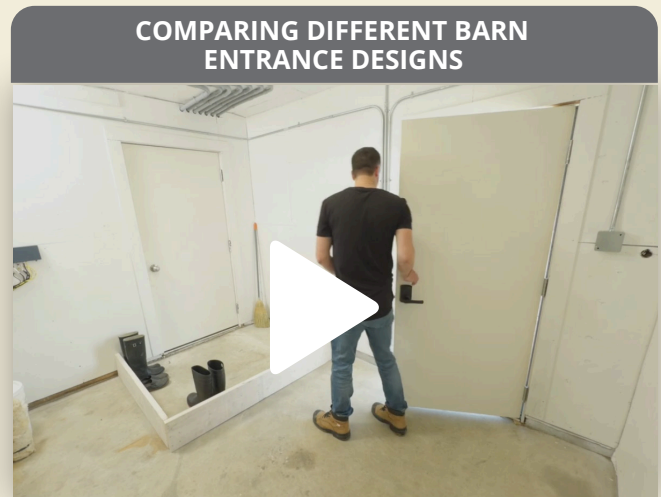
- 1) Having an effective physical barrier; and
- 2) Following the proper protocol to prevent contamination while changing footwear.

In many cases building a physical barrier will be straightforward. However, it is understood that this will be a larger change for some farms that will require more time and/or construction. There are many different solutions, as each barn will require its own design based on the amount of space and the entry protocol.

To help with this, a series of videos and factsheets are available that demonstrate the proper entrance protocol and different types of design options.

### THE BARN ENTRY PROCESS WITH A PHYSICAL BARRIER

# BARN ENTRY IN FOUR EASY STEPS!



### THE PROCESS FOR PROPER BARN ENTRY

# BARN ENTRY IN FOUR EASY STEPS!

A physical bench at the barn entry is a best practice and a demonstrated way to improve biosecurity compliance. The physical barrier should be:

- Flush to the ground to prevent air movement across from one side to the other, and
- Touching the wall on both sides to prevent people from simply walking around the barrier.

**Follow these steps to enter the barn and keep pathogens and viruses out!**

1. Enter the barn and hang up your outerwear.
2. Remove your outdoor shoes without letting your soles touch the floor. Spin 180 degrees and put on the designated shoes immediately, without letting your soles touch the floor.
3. Wash your hands or apply disinfectant.
4. Put on your designated clothes or coveralls and you're ready for the barn!

**PROTECT OUR FLOCKS!**

WATCH THE VIDEO HERE!

chickenfarmers.ca

### ENTRANCE DESIGNS FOR MULTI-STORY BARN

# MULTI-STORY BARN IS A GOOD BARN ENTRY DESIGN POSSIBLE?

In North America – and specifically Canada – the poultry industry is now faced with a higher disease threat from Avian Influenza than in years past. Due to this increased disease risk, all stakeholders should critically analyze their biosecurity practices to be as prepared as possible.

An **improved barn entrance design** is one of the most impactful biosecurity changes that can be made on farms to prevent disease. But how can this be designed well with the limited entry space of multi-story barns?

General principles to remember:

- Keep what's in, in, and what's out, out – complete separation between the Controlled Access Zone (CAZ) and the Restricted Area (RA)
- A physical barrier between the CAZ and RA is ideal to ensure complete separation
  - Wait to wall
  - Flush to the ground
  - Tall enough (wood barriers) or wide enough (benches) to not be easily ignored
- Dirty boots stay on the dirty side (CAZ), clean boots stay on the clean side (RA)
- Socks should never touch the ground on either side of the barrier
- In a smaller space:
  - Limit the door opening over the line
  - Limit footwear going over the line when going from one floor to the other
  - Give enough space to get around the door

### FOOTBATHS: HELPING OR HINDERING BIOSECURITY?

# FOOTBATHS HELPING OR HINDERING BIOSECURITY EFFORTS?

**FOOTBATHS ARE NEVER AN ADEQUATE REPLACEMENT TO BOOT CHANGES WHEN MOVING FROM THE CONTROLLED ACCESS ZONE (CAZ) TO THE RESTRICTED AREA (RA).**

The **OFFSP** requirement states that:

- Farm workers and all people entering the RA, after the barn has been cleaned and/or disinfected and during the grow-out period up to the point the entire flock is shipped from the barn, must take precautions not to carry pathogens from outside the barn into the barn by way of their boots. This can be accomplished by having a dedicated pair of boots at each barn or by another acceptable means (e.g. plastic/disposable boots). This footwear change is to occur at the barrier between the CAZ and the RA. A footbath is not an acceptable method of decreasing the risk of contamination.

Having dedicated RA boots is the only way to ensure that boots from the CAZ environment don't bring bacteria or viruses into the RA and in contact with your flock.

**WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH FOOTBATHS?**

Footbaths are sometimes used to sanitize boots before entering the barn in an effort to reduce the viral and/or bacterial load on footwear!

However, because footbaths are difficult to maintain and use correctly, they may actually act as a reservoir for pathogens.

If footbaths are in use on your farm, it's important to follow the specific product recommendations for the proper mixing guidelines, contact times, and footbath solution changes.

Footbaths are hard to maintain and use effectively due to the product's specific recommendations. These include:

- Scrubbing your boots so they are free of organic material **before** stepping into the footbath.

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## EXAMPLES OF EFFECTIVE PHYSICAL BARRIERS:



- » These barriers extend from wall to wall so people can't walk around the barrier.
- » These barriers are flush to the ground to prevent dust and debris, which can contain harmful viruses and bacteria, from contaminating the RA.
- » The CAZ footwear and RA footwear can't touch each other underneath these barriers.
- » Several of these barriers incorporate a bench for people to sit and change their footwear – which is an excellent practice to help reduce the risk of cross-contamination.
- » When used correctly, dirty boots stay on the dirty side and clean boots on the clean side, while socks don't touch the ground on either side of the barrier.

## EXAMPLES OF NON-EFFECTIVE PHYSICAL BARRIERS:



- » Some of these barriers don't extend from wall to wall, making it easy for people to avoid using the barrier or changing footwear.
- » These barriers are open underneath the seat (i.e. they are not flush to the ground). As a result, dust and debris, which can contain harmful viruses and bacteria, can contaminate the RA.
- » With these barriers open underneath the seat, the CAZ footwear and RA footwear are stored very close to each other, making it easier for contamination to move between the two zones.