

Common Footwear Hygiene Methods Compared



Footwear hygiene is truly the first step in hygiene and a cornerstone of Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures (SSOPs). There are a few common methods used to remove debris and pathogens from footwear. Each method has its benefits, but some have crucial drawbacks that can result in pathogen spread. Here are some of the most common footwear hygiene methods used today and the pros and cons of each:

	Meets Regulatory Standards	Hygiene Event / Compliance Tracking	Consistent	Kills Pathogens	Removes Pathogens	cGMP Procedure	Throughput	Water Consumption	Solution Quantity Used	Onboarding / Training	Safety
Manual Boot Scrubbers	👍	👎	👎	👍	=	=	=	=	=	=	👎
Manual Boot Dips	👍	👎	=	👍	=	=	=	=	=	=	=
Automated Footwear Hygiene Stations	👍	👍	👍	👍	👍	👍	👍	=	=	👍	=
CleanTech® Footwear Enhancements	👍	👍	👍	👍	👍	👍	👍	=	=	👍	=
Door Foamers	👍	👎	=	👍	👍	=	👍	👍	👍	👍	👎
Dry Quat Pellets	👍	👎	=	👍	👎	=	👍	👍	👍	👍	=
Tacky Mats	👍	👎	=	=	👎	=	👍	👍	👍	=	=
Booties / Shoe Covers	👍	👎	=	=	👎	=	=	👍	N/A	=	👎
UV Lights	👎	👎	=	=	👎	=	👎	👍	N/A	=	=

Manual Boot Scrubbers

Benefits

- Low cost
- Familiar system to all

Potential Concerns

- Entirely dependent on human behavior
- Training and retraining required for effective footwear hygiene
- Manual scrubbing process means a longer hygiene event per user
- Doesn't replenish
- concentration of fluid automatically
- Requires somebody to mix the proper chemical concentration
- Potential safety risk of fall for users

Manual Boot Dips

Benefits

- Low cost
- Familiar system to all

Potential Concerns

- Entirely dependent on human behavior
- Training and retraining required for effective pathogen removal
- Manual process means employees need to ensure enough contact time to be effective at killing pathogens
- Doesn't replenish concentration of fluid automatically
- Requires somebody to mix the proper chemical concentration


Automated Footwear Hygiene Stations

Benefits

- Removes the variability of human behavior
- Bi-directional capabilities and compact design
- Automatic application of sanitizing solution at effective PPM for footwear sanitation

Potential Concerns

- Floor draining required
- Some additional onboarding is needed for use



CleanTech® Footwear Hygiene Enhancements

Benefits

- Removes the variability of human behavior
- Simultaneous cleans employees hands and footwear in 12 seconds
- Automatic application of hygiene solution at effective PPM for pathogen removal
- Automatic replenishment of cleaning solutions

Potential Concerns

- Floor draining required
- Some additional onboarding is needed for use
- Requires CleanTech® automated handwashing station

Door Foamers

Benefits

- Suitable for large doorways as foamers cover a large area
- Can be used both for foot traffic and equipment such as forklifts

Potential Concerns

- Creates a slick surface that can be a safety hazard for human traffic/employees
- If not installed correctly, it can be circumvented by human traffic
- If not installed correctly it can spray beyond the floor or footwear and onto the employee's ankles.
- Timing needs to be optimized to keep optimal concentration for traffic flow

Dry Quat Pellets or Powder

Benefits

- Cling to the footwear
- Can be used in both wet and dry environments

Potential Concerns

- Pellets are tracked everywhere
- Pose significant risk to food and employee safety
- Cannot be used in vertical facilities as pellets can fall onto production lines
- May need some moisture to activate

Tacky Mats

Benefits

- Can be used with all footwear types
- Removes small particles and dust
- Easy to install
- Can be used for multiple entrances

Potential Concerns

- Only suitable for dry environments
- Perform no sanitation of footwear / kill no pathogens
- High maintenance - Need to be changed out
- frequently depending on volume of personnel and soil levels
- Can be costly to replace often
- Not effective on pathogens

Booties / Shoe Covers

Benefits

- Easy to use
- No use of sanitizing chemicals
- Low maintenance cost and effort

Potential Concerns

- Don't protect from pathogens, just particulates
- Can be costly to replace often
- Can cause significant waste if replaced often
- Not suitable for environments with any moisture
- Makes shoes slippery, causing a safety hazard to wear and put on

UV Lights

Benefits

- Easy to use
- No use of sanitizing chemicals
- Low maintenance cost and effort

Potential Concerns

- Unproven technology not currently used in many applications
- Needing regulatory buy in prior to use
- Not effective against pathogens when any debris / soils exist
- May not be effective against a broad spectrum of pathogens for shorter time periods
- Not ideal for large shifts as it takes a long exposure time to properly sanitize footwear
- Lacking peer reviewed efficacy data