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**INCUBATOR CLEANING AND DISINFECTING**

Please return a CLEAN incubator. The 4-H office will ***charge $\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to clean*** any incubator that is returned dirty. Thank you for your cooperation helping us maintain the incubators.

A thorough cleaning of the incubator and equipment is essential between hatches to prevent disease transmission to future hatches. Please clean incubators as soon as possible after the hatch.

1. Disconnect the electrical cord from the outlet to avoid possible electrical shock.
2. Heavily soiled areas, such as the wire rack where the eggs were placed, will require thorough cleaning and scrubbing with an old brush to remove pieces of eggshell and fecal material.
3. A diluted solution of **one teaspoon** of household bleach in **one gallon** of water makes and inexpensive cleaning and disinfecting solution. Do NOT use more than one teaspoon of bleach per gallon of water. It is not necessary to be strong and this can be very corrosive to the equipment. If possible, immerse the wire rack in the bleach solution for about two minutes. Do NOT get heating elements and electronics wet. You can wipe with disinfectant wipes. Let the incubator dry before packaging.
4. Be certain to wash your hands thoroughly after cleaning the incubator or after handling the eggs and chicks.