

# Manure Bedding - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

## 1. What is the purpose of treating manure bedding with this slurry blend?

The slurry blend is used to **stabilize recycled manure solids (RMS)** so that:

- ammonia generation is reduced
  - microbial growth is controlled
  - bedding stays usable and comfortable for longer
- The goal is better barn air quality, lower SCC pressure, and improved cow health under normal farm conditions.
- 

## 2. Is this product a disinfectant or sanitizer?

No.

It is **not intended to sterilize bedding** or act like a traditional disinfectant.

It works by:

- slowing microbial activity
  - controlling ammonia formation
  - stabilizing bedding during storage and use
- This makes the environment less favorable for odor and pathogen pressure, rather than trying to "kill everything instantly."
- 

## 3. What happens when bedding is treated and then stored?

When bedding is treated and stored:

- the product **continues to work during storage**
- odor and microbial pressure are reduced while the bedding sits
- this storage period **adds value**, not waste

However, because bedding remains biologically active:

- some of the product's active capacity is gradually used during storage
- This is expected and normal.

---

#### 4. If bedding is stored for a long time, does it still work in the barn?

If bedding is used quickly after preparation, storage treatment alone may be sufficient.

If bedding is stored for **weeks or months**:

- much of the “storage benefit” has already occurred
- a **light surface refresh at bedding application** is recommended  
This ensures the bedding performs optimally when cows are present.

---

#### 5. Does bedding need to be fully re-treated after long storage?

No.

Only a **light surface spray** is needed:

- focus on the top layer
- target areas where urine and air contact occur
- avoid soaking or increasing moisture

This is a **surface re-activation**, not a full re-treatment.

---

#### 6. Why is environmental (surface) spraying important if we already treat bedding?

Ammonia does not only come from bedding.

It:

- binds to walls, rails, grates, and concrete
- slowly releases back into the air
- persists even when bedding is replaced

Surface treatment helps control these **secondary ammonia sources**, which are often overlooked but very important.

---

## 7. Is environmental spraying meant to treat the air?

No.

Environmental spraying is for **surface conditioning**, not air disinfection.

The correct approach is:

- light spraying of ammonia-retentive surfaces
- not fogging the barn air
- not attempting to disinfect the entire space

Normal ventilation should continue operating.

---

## 8. What surfaces should be treated in the barn?

Key areas include:

- walls up to 2–3 meters
- railings and stall fronts
- grates and drainage areas
- feed and water trough edges
- corners and ledges near animal activity

Treating the same surfaces consistently over time is more effective than random spraying.

---

## 9. How often should environmental surfaces be sprayed?

In most cases:

- **1–2 times per day is sufficient**
  - only light surface wetting is required  
More frequent spraying does not improve results and can increase humidity.
-

## **10. Does spraying increase barn humidity?**

It should not, if done correctly.

To control humidity:

- reduce spray volume, not increase concentration
- avoid fogging or misting the air
- focus on surfaces only

Proper application uses minimal water.

---

## **11. Can we judge performance by measuring chlorine or “active chlorine”?**

No.

Free chlorine measurements (pool tests, DPD strips, etc.):

- are not reliable in manure or bedding
- do not reflect how the product works

Performance should be judged by:

- ammonia reduction trends
  - odor control
  - bedding microbial counts
  - SCC, mastitis incidence, and cow health
-

## 12. What level of bacterial reduction should we expect?

Because this is a **field trial**, results will vary.

Typical observations may range from:

- **1–4 log reductions**, depending on organism and conditions

Rather than fixed targets, the focus should be on:

- consistent reduction over time
  - correlation with SCC and health outcomes
  - improved bedding stability
- 

## 13. Does this product change bedding comfort or performance?

No negative effects are expected.

The pilot is designed to verify that:

- water absorption
  - looseness
  - replacement cycle
- are not adversely affected.

In many cases, users observe improved bedding usability.

---

## 14. Where is the best stage to add the slurry to manure?

Best results occur when adding during:

- active mixing or handling
- RMS preparation
- compost drum inlet

Passive long-term storage alone is not the optimal single treatment point.

---

## 15. What is the main benefit we are trying to show in this pilot?

The pilot aims to demonstrate:

- sustained ammonia reduction
- slower odor rebound
- reduced microbial pressure in bedding
- improvements in SCC and mastitis risk
- compatibility with existing farm practices

This is a **practical farm performance evaluation**, not a laboratory disinfectant test.

---