

# CLEANING PRODUCE WASH EQUIPMENT – ABSORBER

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# PRODUCE BRUSH WASHER 3-SECTIONS: CONVEYOR, BRUSH WASHER, AND ABSORBER



CLEANING TOOLS: VARIOUS DIAMETER  
BOTTLE BRUSHES, DRYER VENT BRUSH,  
MULTI-PURPOSE PAINT SCRAPER, LONG HANDLE  
SPONGE SCRUBBER



# ABSORBER MADE UP OF FOAM DONUTS SET ONTO SPINNING AXLES



# ABSORBER DONUTS SPIN & "WICK" OFF WATER FROM PRODUCE COMING OUT OF BRUSH WASHER



# DEBRIS GETS SMEARED ONTO DONUTS, BETWEEN DONUTS, & AXLES ENTERING HOUSING



# CLEANING DONUTS

- Smearred on debris and oils requires more detergent application
- Scrubby sponge is used to rub off vegetable matter
- Turn the absorber on then off to rotate donuts so all surface areas can be cleaned
- Clean drive cylinders from underneath absorber
- Caution is needed while machine is running

# CLEANING DONUTS CONTINUED

- To reach material stuck between donuts, multi-purpose paint scraper tool works well
- Small diameter bottle brush can reach debris between donuts & housing
- Care must be taken not to gouge or tear foam donuts with sharp tools
- Foam donuts could be replaced annually



# TO CLEAN DEEPER, CHAIN GUARDS NEED TO BE REMOVED



# THIS EXPOSES AXLES, CHAINS, AND WOOD



# TO SEPARATE ABSORBER, DISCONNECT CHAINS



# CLEAN INTERNALLY WHERE DEBRIS ACCUMULATES INCLUDING ROUGH WELDS



# PULL OUT DRIP PAN. LIFT UPRIGHT



- Clean legs & supports
- Clean underside of donuts
- Clean drive cylinders.
- Clean underside of drip pan, outlet tube, & corners
- Have wheels on for easy moving
- Might be necessary to replace donuts once a year

# CLEANING TAKES TIME

- Cleaning the absorber starts with the plate connecting it to the brush washer
- Each line of donuts must be cleaned 30-45min
- Underside drive cylinders 20-30 min
- Housing and around axles 20 min
- Legs and drip pan 15 min
- Deep cleaning starting with disassembly of chain guards and disconnecting chains total of 3-4 (with reassembly)
- Do deep cleaning in off-season and daily maintenance cleaning during season

# RECOMMENDED TIPS AND RESOURCES

- Replace donuts in the off-season
- Ask equipment rep if single section donut available
- To view wash equipment checklist  
[https://rvpadmin.cce.cornell.edu/uploads/doc\\_734.pdf](https://rvpadmin.cce.cornell.edu/uploads/doc_734.pdf)
- Explore more farm food safety resources at the Cornell Vegetable Program site  
[cvp.cce.cornell.edu](http://cvp.cce.cornell.edu)