



Use of Virkon for Disinfecting Feeder Boxes and Associated Equipment

Using a disinfectant is essential in preventing the spread of disease between grey squirrels and red squirrels or between any other non-target animals using feeders. Virkon is effective against viral, bacterial and fungal disease-causing organisms. Please read through the instructions and if you have any questions or concerns, contact your local Conservation Officer or local volunteer group (see the [Network Directory](#) on our website for details).

Preparation

One Virkon® S 5g tablet produces 500ml of disinfectant (to make a 1% solution).

1. Before handling Virkon in any form, put on a suitable protective gloves and tight-fitting safety goggles.
2. Add 500ml of water to a clean spray bottle and carefully place one tablet into the water (**not** the water to the tablet). The solution should be pink in colour when the tablet has fully dissolved. The solution will be effective for 5 days.
3. The solution should be sprayed in a light mist all over the feeder and any other equipment that may have come into contact with a grey squirrel. Please allow the equipment to dry naturally before using it or putting it away. It should not be rinsed after it has been sprayed and it should not be dried.
4. The solution can be kept in a cool, dry place for 5 days (or less if the pink colour has faded). After this time, any remaining solution should be disposed of following local guidelines for special waste (see below).
5. Wash hands immediately after use.

Precautions

- Virkon® S is classified as irritating to skin and risk of serious damage to eyes under EU regulations. **Please wear suitable protective gloves and tight-fitting safety goggles** when preparing the Virkon solution.
- Keep out of reach of children.
- Do not mix with other chemicals.
- Avoid splashes of concentrated solution when you make up the 1% solution by adding the tablet to the water (NOT the water to the tablet).
- Always refer to the Materials Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for further details on product specific health and safety issues: E.g.

www.nonnativespecies.org/assets/Document-repository/VirkonS-powder.pdf

Emergency/First Aid Procedures

- IF IN EYES: Remove contact lenses if present and easy to do so, rinse immediately with plenty of water for several minutes and seek medical advice immediately.
- IF ON SKIN: Rinse any product off the skin immediately with soap and water.
- IF INGESTED: Allow patient to drink water if conscious, but DO NOT induce vomiting. Seek medical advice immediately.
- IF INHALED: Remove from exposure, lie down. If victim has stopped breathing: Artificial respiration and/or oxygen may be necessary. Seek medical advice immediately.

Storage

Store the tablets in the sealed, labelled packages they are supplied in, in cool dry conditions. Protect from moisture and contamination and keep away from combustible material.

Disposal

Following use, **do not pour the remaining solution into the natural environment or water courses.** For small quantities of solution, wash down the drain with plenty of water to dilute the product.

Virkon tablets have an expiry date of approximately 2 years from the date of manufacture and they will no longer be effective as a disinfectant. If you are unsure of how old your tablets are and think they are out of date, please dispose of them by diluting them with plenty of water and washing the solution down the drain as mentioned above.

Visit <https://lanxess.com/en/Products-and-Brands/Brands/Virkon-S> for more information on the safe use of Virkon.