



Maintaining silage storage systems

It is important to carry out routine inspections and annual maintenance checks on your clamps and collection systems to ensure they remain impermeable and free from any structural defects. The best time to carry out these checks is when the clamp is empty before first cut silage is taken.

Things to consider:

- Power wash the structure to remove debris and allow all walls, channels, joins and floor slab to be inspected. Ensure washings are collected in the collection system.
- Check the condition of the floor to ensure it is impermeable. Pay close attention to the front of the floor slab as this area receives more wear and tear due to effluent attack, weather damage and vehicle movements. If aggregate is showing or loose on a concrete floor you may require to reseal the floor using concrete or a hot rolled asphalt.
- Check effluent channels for cracks, these should be sealed using bitumen paint or suitable resin which is acid resistant.
- Check all joins especially between the floor and walls. Any cracks should be sealed using bitumen paint or suitable acid resistant resin prior to silage making.
- If clamp has concrete walls, ensure sealant is present and in good condition at any joins. If you find the sealant is coming away or in poor condition, then it should be removed and resealed using a suitable acid resistant sealant.
- When sheeting the walls of an earth bank clamp, it is good practice to ensure the membrane is extended onto the floor and a flexicoil pipe is laid at the base of the wall around the inside of the clamp to the channel. This will protect the floor and direct all effluent to the collection channel.

