

HOW TO STUN POULTRY (ELECTRICAL WATERBATH)

Using a waterbath to stun birds makes them unconscious before they are slaughtered, or kills them instantly **without pain**. These tips will help you use an electrical waterbath to stun chickens and turkeys properly.

ABOUT POULTRY

- ✦ Chickens and turkeys are social creatures and flocks have an established pecking order
- ✦ Dominant birds can be more aggressive
- ✦ Poultry can become stressed easily
- ✦ **Like:** well-lit areas
- ✦ **Dislike:** rapid movements, bright lights, loud sounds

BEFORE STUNNING

Stressed birds flap their wings, which could enter the electrified water before their heads, giving them painful shocks.

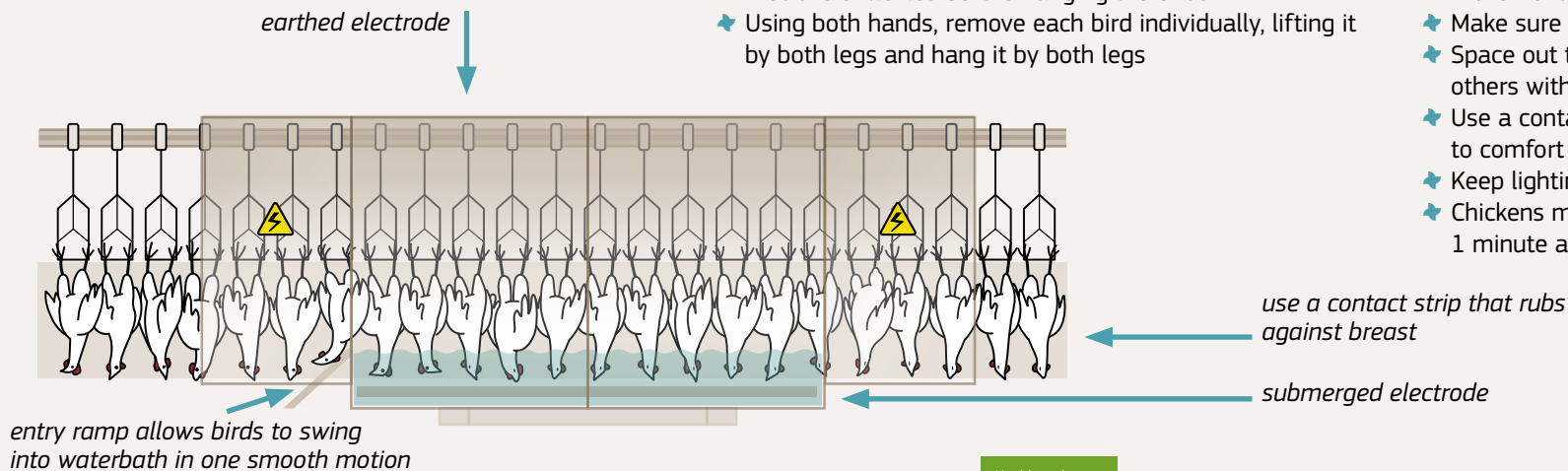
To stun poultry properly and painlessly, and reduce wing flapping, it's important that you correctly shackle the birds.

WHEN YOU SHACKLE THEM

- ✦ Make sure the containers are **close to the shackle line** and at a good height for removing birds
- ✦ **Wet the shackles** before hanging the birds
- ✦ Using both hands, remove each bird individually, lifting it by both legs and hang it by both legs

TO KEEP BIRDS CALM

- ✦ Move them **gently and slowly**
- ✦ Keep the shackle line at the right speed to avoid swinging movements
- ✦ Make sure the **shackle line is straight** with no obstacles
- ✦ Space out the birds so that struggling birds don't beat others with their wings
- ✦ Use a contact strip that rubs against birds' breasts to comfort them
- ✦ Keep lighting **low and constant** throughout the area
- ✦ Chickens must not stay upside down for more than 1 minute and turkeys for more than 2 minutes



DURING STUNNING

The electrical parameters of the waterbath must be strong enough to stun all birds. **The current of the bath must be adjusted for the maximum number of birds** able to be immersed at the same time. For example: if there are 15 birds in the waterbath then the current should be 1.5 A if the frequency is lower than 200 Hz (100 mA x 15).

The main parameters are current (measured in amperes: A) and frequency (measured in hertz Hz).

PARAMETERS FOR WATERBATH STUNNING (AVERAGE VALUE PER BIRD)

Frequency (Hz)	Current per chicken (milliamperes, mA)	Current per turkey (mA)
<200	100	250
200-400	150	400
400-1 500	200	400

CHECK THE EQUIPMENT

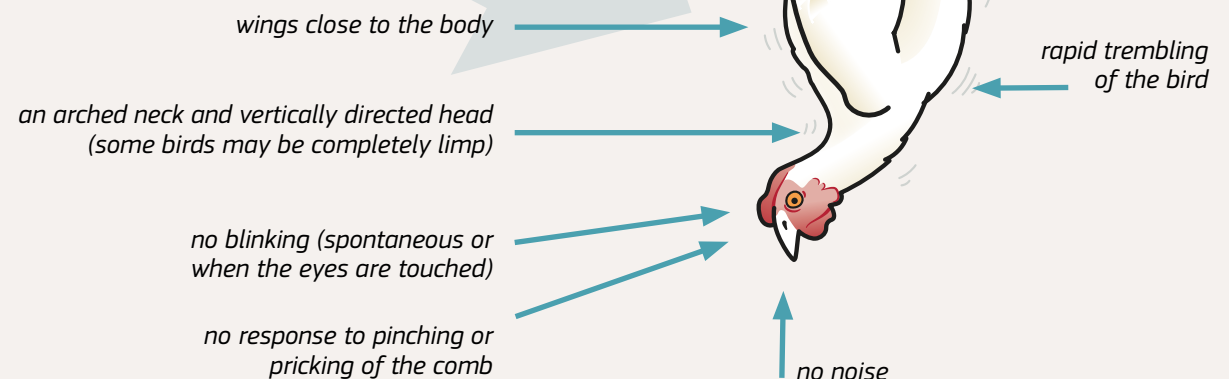
- Ensure the electrical parameters remain visible
- Make sure the metal overhead bar (electrode) keeps in **constant contact** with the shackles
- Check the condition of shackles (not worn)
- Monitor the **cleanliness of the water**
- Make sure the water level is high enough to immerse birds' heads and necks, but not high enough to overflow

CHECK THE BIRDS

- Monitor birds when they **enter, pass through and exit** the bath
- The birds shouldn't show more than one muscle contraction when entering. If they do, they will get a pre-stun shock that could make them flap wildly
- The birds' heads and necks should be in the water for **at least 4 seconds**

CHECK FOR CONSCIOUSNESS

You must make sure that birds are unconscious before bleeding.



AFTER STUNNING

CONFIRM THE DEATH

Birds must be dead before entering into the scalding tank.

Signs of death are:

- Limp carcass
- Wings hanging loose
- No spontaneous movements
- No bleeding
- No breathing