

Washing Hatching Eggs

LESSON 1

If you don't have to wash eggs, don't

There is no significant difference in bacterial load between clean and settable eggs. To reduce unnecessary handling, you can safely ship both clean and settable eggs.

LESSON 2

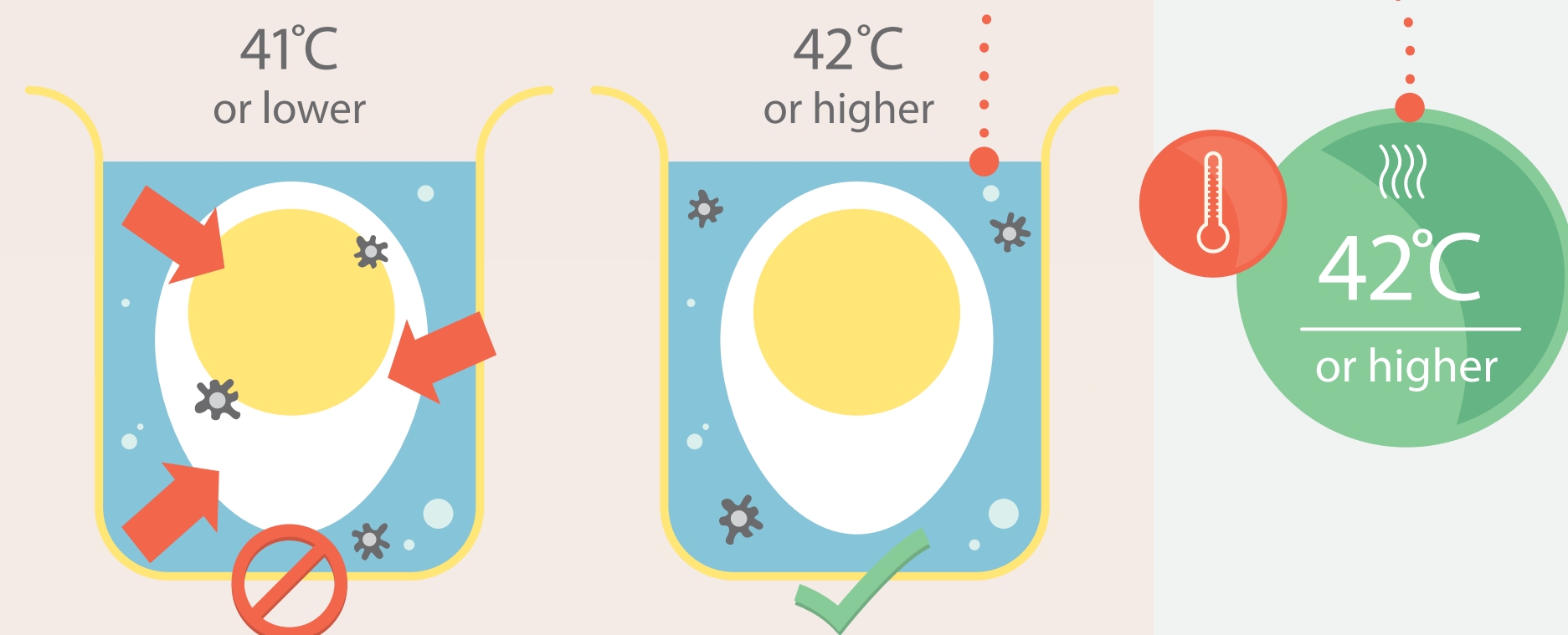
Never soak eggs

Soaking eggs draws dirty water into the pores of the egg shells. In addition to making eggs dirtier, soaking also damages the cuticle.

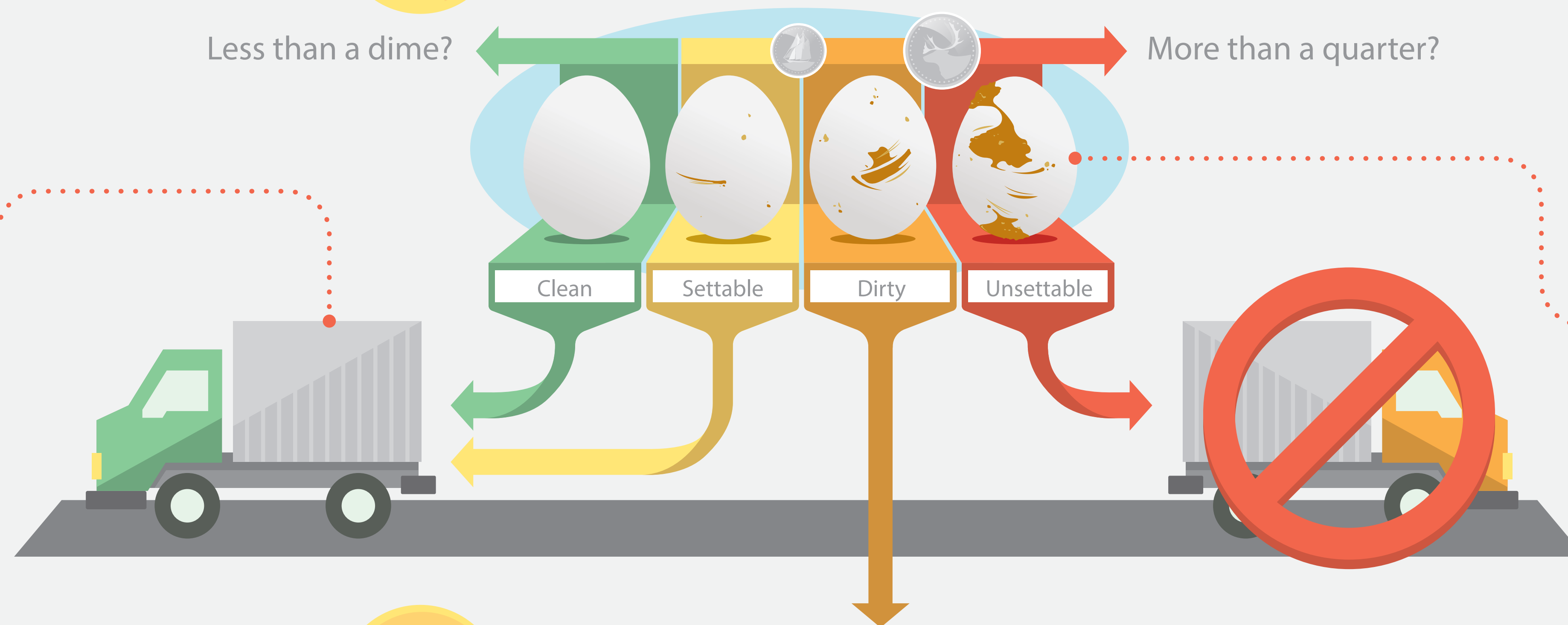
LESSON 3

Use water 42°C or higher

Water that is below the temperature of an egg creates a pressure difference, resulting in the egg 'sucking in' the dirty water.

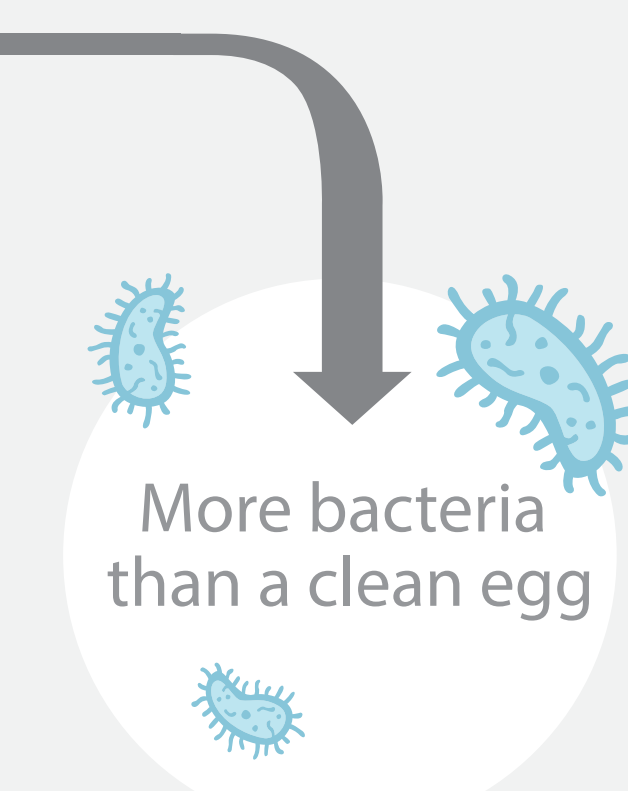


STEP 1 How dirty is the egg?



STEP 2 Wash Dirty Eggs Properly

BEST Method	1	EGG WASHING MACHINE
	2	AERATED AGITATION IN EGG WASH
	3	CLOROX* WIPES, 5 EGGS PER WIPE
	4	RUNNING WATER
	5	ADDING EGGS TO A TUB OF WATER + EGG WASH, AND SOAKING
	6	AERATED AGITATION IN WATER
	7	ADDING WATER TO A TUB OF EGGS AND SOAKING
	8	ADDING WATER + EGG WASH TO A TUB OF EGGS, AND SOAKING
	9	ADDING EGGS TO A TUB OF WATER AND SOAKING
	10	ROUGH SPONGE
WORST Method	11	SANDPAPER



LESSON 4

Bacteria can grow in your equipment

Proper cleaning, disinfection and maintenance can prevent environments that promote more resistant bacteria.

LESSON 5

You cannot 'fix' an un-settable egg



Un-settable eggs contain 44x the amount of bacteria in the pores when compared to a dirty egg that has been washed and a clean egg.

LESSON 6

Use Egg Wash

Egg wash has residual effects that not only help clean initially, but also work to prevent further bacterial contamination.

LESSON 7

Avoid cuticle damage

The cuticle is a protein covering that regulates gas and moisture exchange while acting as a barrier for bacteria. Removing the cuticle opens up the pores and allows for bacterial contamination of the egg.

FOOTNOTES

* See: Scott T.A. and C. Swetnam. 1993. Screening Sanitizing Agents and Methods of Application for Hatching Eggs I-III. J. Applied Poultry Research, 2:1-18.