Silclear
SILICONE SOLUTIONS

Silclear Silicone Liners & Shells
Quick Guide for a Smooth Transition

In many cases, it's possible to switch to silicone liners with little or no adjustment to your existing equipment. However, every parlour setup is different and sometimes small adjustments will help optimise performance.

Below is some practical advice on getting the best from Silclear liners and shells.

1. Ensure a Secure Fit on the Claws
If liners slip off, it's usually due to claw design or hygiene factors:

- Claw spigot size:
  - Some milking claws (such as DeLaval Visiflow) have shorter and thinner spigots. GRIPPAs and/or liner sleeves can be used to hold liners securely.
  - Larger spigots (found on some Scandinavian-made claws) can also cause slippage. Silicone's elasticity may allow the liner to slide back.

- Fat and grease build-up:
  - Deposits between the liner and spigot can reduce grip. Degrease spigots and recondition silicone to remove fats and restore a secure fit.

2. Preventing Liner Slip During Milking
Liners may slip from the cow due to inconsistent teat-end vacuum levels. Causes include:

- Greasy liners or udder salves on teats.
- Irregular teat conformation.
- Claws not hanging squarely under the cow.
- Short milk tubes.
- Equipment configuration issues.

In many cases a small increase in vacuum (around 2 kPa) is enough to stop liner slip. Do not be concerned about making this adjustment; Silclear liners are lighter and gentler than traditional rubber liners, which compensates for a slightly higher vacuum setting.

For further assistance, please contact Silclear on +44 (0)1425 610700 or email info@silclear.com.

Silclear
SILICONE SOLUTIONS

Silclear Silicone Liners & Shells
Quick Guide for a Smooth Transition

Teat Condition
After milking, teats should look healthy and pink, with no red rings or stress marks. If this is the case, milking more effectively at a slightly higher vacuum is preferable to milking less effectively at a lower setting.

While rubber liners rely on friction to hold on (sometimes at the cost of teat health), Silclear liners have a smooth internal surface which provides a more comfortable and gentle milking action.

If slippage persists, consider:

- Checking pulsation settings (ratio, phases, service status). Static tests provide some information, but a dynamic test is needed for the full picture during milking.
- Ensuring pipework capacity matches the number of milking units in use. Extra units without upgraded pipework can cause vacuum fluctuations.
- Confirming vacuum gauge placement and regulator responsiveness.
- Checking claw air bleed holes are clear.

3. Helping Cows Milk Out Fully
When switching to silicone liners, most herds adapt quickly. Heifers tend to accept them immediately, but some older cows may take a few weeks to adjust. For slow-milking cows, it is especially important to review vacuum, pulsator ratio and pulsation phases.

Long-Term Benefits
Switching to Silclear liners may involve a short period of adjustment, for significant long-term gains. Farmers often find that cows previously slow to milk out actually speed up once Silclear liners are in place, thanks to their gentle and efficient action.

By maintaining consistent teat health and reducing stress on the udder, Silclear liners support both cow welfare and equipment longevity. With the right setup, Silclear liners deliver a smoother, healthier and more reliable milking process.

For further assistance, please contact Silclear on +44 (0)1425 610700 or email info@silclear.com.