

Fiona Lee VMD, DACVD, MBA

Lime Sulfur Dips

- Always make a new batch of appropriately diluted lime sulfur prior to each dip. Most dilutions are 4 oz dip in a gallon of water dilute, but 8 oz may be diluted into a gallon of water for chronic recurrent cases. You may need to make a smaller volume depending on how many animals in the household need treatment at any one time.
- Twice weekly application is standard, but your veterinarian may recommend more or less frequent application.
- Lime sulfur is very safe, even for pregnant, nursing, or young animals (puppies and kittens 2-3 weeks of age or older). The concern for young animals is hypothermia associated with the dip process. Keep young patients warm with a heating lamp or a warming bottle or blanket after treatment.
- There are rare reports of lime sulfur causing eye or mouth irritation. If the lime sulfur is diluted appropriately, then irritation is very uncommon. An E-collar is not generally needed.
- Do not pre-wet the animal.
- Depending on the room/space/environment, using a new garden sprayer with large plastic bins to hold the fresh and contaminated lime sulfur concentration may be helpful.
- Because many infected patients have lesions on the face, use a makeup sponge or a rag to gently but thoroughly apply the solution to the face, ear tips, and nose without dripping.
- Do not rinse the solution off the patient. It is meant to be left on the skin to dry. Rinsing may negate any positive effects.
- You can place a cat in a carrier or a dog in a crate for 30-60 minutes after application until the pet is dry. Although discoloration of hair will remain short-term, lime sulfur should not stain other surfaces after it dries.
- Use a well-ventilated area.
- Use clothing and towels that can be stained since lime sulfur will stain laundry as well as jewelry and porous surfaces (cement, porcelain, etc). Take precautions by collecting the used solution in a plastic bin for proper dilution before disposal.
- There are various YouTube videos that show how to apply the solution – but always check with your veterinarian if you have questions about the process.

Source: <https://www.sheltermedicine.com/library/resources/?r=ringworm-dermatophytosis>