

Milkhouse Construction Requirements

The following is a list of construction requirements for Grade A Dairy farms in Minnesota. Use this list to ensure your new or remodeled facility meets the construction requirements.

Water, Sinks and Wash Vats:

- A hand sink with hot and cold water, soap, and single-service towels located at least 1 ft. from wash vat
- Provide a utensil wash vat
- Water under pressure (hot/cold) is required in the milkhouse

Lighting and Ventilation:

- Minimum of 20 foot-candles of light at all working areas
- Adequate ventilation to minimize condensation
- Lighting must be provided for the bulk tank that will illuminate inside the entire tank

Bulk Tanks:

- Bulk tanks manufactured after January 1, 2000 must have an electronic or paper temperature recorder
- CIP lines which are located outside of the milkhouse are to be welded; all gasketed CIP line installations must be approved by the regulatory agency (State Inspector)
- The bulk tank cannot be installed over any floor drains
- Flexible plastic or rubber hoses used for the bottom or top filling of bulk tanks must be:
 - As short as practical (generally eight feet or fewer);
 - Drainable;
 - Have sanitary fittings; and
 - Be supported to maintain uniform slope and alignment
- Sanitary fittings of filling hoses must be:
 - Permanently attached with a crevice-free joint between the hose and the fitting (vulcanized); and
 - A part of an MDA pre-approved CIP cleaning system.
- Bulk tank washer fill lines are to be disconnected or separated when the tank contains milk

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Milkhouse Construction and Design:

- Milkhouse doors cannot open directly into any non-milking area used for animal storage or housing
- Milkhouse doors cannot open directly into any living quarters
- No openings are allowed between the milkhouse and toilet rooms (self-closing doors are approved)
- Milkhouse clearance distances must meet the following:

Distance between:	Minimum distance:
The bulk tank and all walls, including bulk headed tanks	18 inches
The bulk tanks (if more than one)	18 inches
The milkhouse ceiling and the top of the bulk tank	42 inches
The front of the bulk tank and wall	36 inches

*Consider potential expansion projects and plan for extra space if necessary

*Any variation to above clearances are to be approved by the regulatory agency (State Inspector)

- Vents and lighting fixtures cannot be located over tank openings, wash vats, clean utensil storage areas, etc.
- Vats, tanks, water heaters, etc. cannot be installed in corners of the milkhouse
- Walls in the milkhouse must be smooth, washable, and light-colored
- Wall openings for air movement must be filtered and/or use self-closing louvres
- Milkhouse fans must direct air away from the milkhouse

Hoseport:

- A hose port that adequately protects the outside opening when not in use (i.e. a fly tight cover or lid)
- A minimum of a 4 ft. x 4 ft. easily cleanable, impervious surface shall be located under the hose-port on the outside of the building

Note: The above list is not comprehensive of all construction requirements but covers the most basic requirements and commonly seen issues on all farms; each farm is different and may have unique circumstances. Please contact your dairy inspector, field representative, or MDA equipment specialist for specific questions concerning your milkhouse.