

# How To Kill & Prevent Chronic Thrush

The Horse-Journal recently published the results of field trials of the leading thrush remedies. They revealed the most effective products to use against thrush and the steps you can take to help kill and prevent chronic thrush.

## What is Thrush

Thrush is a bacterial infection and not a fungus as commonly thought. **Mild thrush** is often recognized by its obvious black discharge and odor. **Moderate thrush** has black discharge along with some pain observed coming from the heel tissue. There is severe pain and lameness associated with **severe thrush** with obvious involvement of deep tissue.

Repeated attempts to kill deeply rooted infections with traditional caustic chemicals were shown in field trials to be not very effective against **severe thrush** which is often referred to as **chronic thrush**.

## How To Treat Thrush

The most important steps in treating thrush are cleaning out the foot and removing diseased tissue. Your farrier can help by trimming the flaps of the frog and cutting out some of the diseased tissue. It is important to open up the area for oxygen and cleaning.

The Horse-Journal says that the hoof should be cleaned & treated frequently by :

### Washing



### Picking & Brushing



### Wipe & Dry



### Use Thrush Stop



## Thrush Chemicals

Although caustic products (copper, iodine, formalin & chlorine) may kill mild or moderate thrush, their repeated use can be harmful to tender tissue and slow the healing process. The Horse-Journal named SBS Thrush Stop their "Product of the Year 2009". They said it is sufficiently antimicrobial and gentle enough to be reliable for **severe thrush**. It also forms a barrier and has a long-lasting effect. The formula works differently than other thrush products. It is not an irritant nor toxic to surrounding hoof tissue which allows them a chance to take hold and prosper.

For more informative articles on hoof care, equine gastric ulcers, or horse grooming go to [sbsequine.com/articles](http://sbsequine.com/articles).