

Sugarhouse Startup Procedure for Starting From Off-Season/Non-Operation

The following policy specifies how *{Name of sugarhouse}* opens, cleans and starts up equipment at the beginning of the season.

Checklist of items to clean in the sap collection rooms/buildings before collecting sap to process

If you don't have a water source, then you may need to collect sap and make filtrate water using your RO to use for cleanup.

- Uncover and inspect the releaser. If necessary, clean the releaser with hot water.
- Vacuum the floors, walls and work benches.
- Rinse the sap tanks and plumbing with *{hot, cold, filtrate}* water.
- Inspect the tanks and plumbing to ensure no bugs, mice or mice feces are present.
- If you have a generator: clean up the generator room and ensure the generator is properly grounded. Turn on the generator and run it to ensure it is operating properly.

Checklist of items to clean in the Reverse Osmosis (RO) room prior to concentrating sap to process

- If you have a water source: turn on water and place drain plug in the water pump.
- Turn on the *{propane gas, electric}* heater. The RO room needs to be heated before running the RO to ensure that there is no frozen water in any pipes or components. It needs to remain heated throughout the season so that the membranes and components do not freeze.
- If you have a hot water heater: fill the hot water heater and then turn it on.
- Vacuum the floor and walls of RO room.
- Install membranes in RO (follow directions from manufacturer).
- If you don't have a water source, then collect the first *{xx gallons}* sap. Concentrate this sap to produce filtrate water. Discard the concentrate and keep the filtrate.
- Complete a short rinse, wash and long rinse cycle on the RO following directions from the manufacturer prior to concentrating any sap for syrup production.
- Use the rinse water from the RO to flush the plumbing from the RO to the concentrate tank.
- Wash the floor and walls of RO room with hot water and soap.

Checklist of items to clean and setup in the sugarhouse

- Vacuum the floor and walls of sugarhouse.
- Rinse the concentrate tank and plumbing with *{hot, cold, filtrate}* water.
- Rinse the pipes that connect the concentrate tank to the evaporator.
- Assemble the pipes that connect the concentrate tank to the evaporator including any sight gauges.
- Rinse the flue pans and syrup pans with *{hot, cold, filtrate}* water.
- Rinse any pre-heater pipes and trays or steam pans with *{hot, cold, filtrate}* water.
- Inspect all evaporator pipes and parts and then assemble the evaporator.
- Rinse all floats and float boxes on the evaporator with *{hot, cold, filtrate}* water.
- If you have an automatic draw-off, then connect it and check the thermometer and display.
- Plug in any other gauges like a flue-pan auto alarm and verify that they are operating correctly.
- If you have a fuel source other than wood, check the fuel delivery system.
- Wash all surfaces like counters in the sugarhouse with hot water and soap.
- Open a bag of Diatomaceous Earth. Leave it in the original bag and place it in *{describe DE container}*. Put the cover on.
- Clean any utensils that you will be using in the sugarhouse with hot water.