

Future Generations University

How and When to Sanitize Maple Sap Tubing

By the end of syrup season, the last thing anyone wants to do is spend more time in their sugar camp cleaning. It has been a long season of long days and nights. It can be very tempting to walk out of the woods without looking back and tell yourself that you will worry about the clean-up later or even at the start of next year. That is not a good plan, especially not if you are using 3/16-inch tubing and want to have good sap flow next sugaring season.

3/16-inch tubing has gotten a lot of bad press in recent years. Plugged tubing and reduced yields have convinced many syrup producers to pull down their briefly loved 3/16 systems, replacing them with the more traditional 5/16-inch tubing systems and investing in a vacuum pump. That may not be necessary, however; it just may take one last walk in the woods to sanitize your tubing system after the production season is over.