



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Stanfield® Heat Pads

Osborne's Stanfield® Heat Pads are the preferred method of providing safe, gentle warmth to newborn pigs. Their consistent quality, durability and performance has earned the trust of thousands of professional swine producers. With heat pads, producers raise healthier pigs by providing warmth exactly where it is needed while keeping sows cool and productive.

WHAT SURFACE TEMPERATURE SHOULD I EXPECT FROM AN OSBORNE HEAT PAD?

In a farrowing barn that is maintained between 60 to 70°F (15 – 22°C), the surface of the heat pad is 90 to 100°F (32 – 38°C) without any temperature control. Allow about one hour after power is applied to measure the surface temperatures accurately.

Under the same conditions, Nursery Heat Pads operate at 80 – 90°F (27 – 32°C). The air temperature in the barn and the type of flooring material influence the exact surface temperature of the heat pad. Osborne Heat Pad Controls are specifically designed for heat pad control and recommended for optimum performance and economy.

SHOULD I USE BEDDING OR OTHER COVERING MATERIALS WITH A STANFIELD HEAT PAD?

No. Coverings of any sort are not recommended or needed. Covering the heat pad with bedding materials or residues will usually result in inefficient and improper operation of the heat pad. Osborne Heat Pads are durably designed for direct contact with the juvenile animals and eliminate the need for bedding and the cost and work associated with maintenance of bedding.

SHOULD I PROVIDE OTHER HEAT IN THE BARN?

Osborne's Stanfield Heat Pads do not produce enough heat to warm a barn. They attract pigs and other juvenile animals because they provide a warm sleeping area. If the air temperature drops too low (e.g. less than 60°F [15°C]), then chilling is possible, especially if the laying area permits drafts.

HOW DO ANIMALS FIND THE HEAT PAD?

While exploring their surroundings, animals usually find the heat pad without assistance. The added radiant warmth of a heat bulb is recommended immediately after birth to help dry piglets. Moving this bulb or a smaller bulb over the heat pad after parturition is complete draws the piglets to the heat pad. Remember to raise the bulb higher than normal to avoid overheating the heat pad. Then remove the bulb after a few hours to save energy.

CAN I USE OSBORNE STANFIELD HEAT PADS ON WIRE-MESH FLOORS?

Yes. Excellent results are obtained on wire-mesh floors because the heat pad eliminates drafts and contact with cold metal. Updrafts from below, caused by hot lamp fixtures or gas burners hanging above the piglets, are also eliminated.

HOW DO OSBORNE STANFIELD HEAT PADS WORK ON OTHER FLOORS?

Osborne Heat Pads work well on all floors. On solid concrete, ensure that floors drain well so that water or urine does not collect under the heat pads. Prolonged exposure to such liquids can shorten the useful life of the heat pad. On plastic or wood floors, Osborne Heat Pad Controls are especially recommended to adjust temperature to match floor type.

DOES THE STANFIELD HEAT PAD HAVE AN INTERNAL THERMOSTAT?

No. The Stanfield Heat Pad is designed to provide a constant amount of heat. An internal thermostat is not a reliable way to control heat pad temperature. First, an internal thermostat samples the temperature in only a very small region of the heat pad. Second, such a thermostat is inherently less durable than the heat pad itself. The use of Osborne Heat Pad Controls is recommended for reliable and economical control of heat pad temperature.

HOW DO I CHOOSE BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT MODELS OF HEAT PADS?

A heat pad shape and size exists for every application and type of animal: for piglets in farrowing and nursery, for starting pigs in wean-to-finish barns, for reptiles, turtles and tortoises, for puppies, and many other uses. Tell Osborne Customer Service about your application and they can help you choose the best model to fit your need.

CAN HEAT PADS BE USED IF MY BARN IS ALREADY EQUIPPED WITH GAS OR ELECTRIC INFRARED HEATERS?

Yes. Heat pads are an inexpensive complement to overhead heaters, permitting overall reduction of gas or electric energy and providing an ideal environment for animals. Heat pads also help block updrafts caused by overhead heaters.

SHOULD MY HEAT PADS BE ANCHORED?

Fastening heat pads to the floor, draft barrier, or wall ensures proper operation and safety by preventing accidental access by adult animals. Anchor the heat pad using the predrilled holes or add holes at the predimpled locators. Smart-Fasteners are available from Osborne, specially designed to fasten heat pads securely to slotted floors. On solid concrete, use expansion bushings and screws. To keep moisture and residue from accumulating under the heat pad, apply a bead of caulking compound around the outer edge before securing to the floor.

CAN I DRILL MORE ANCHOR HOLES IN THE PAD?

Yes. Additional anchor holes can be drilled at the predimpled locations within the one-inch (25 mm) border area.

DOES THE POWER SUPPLY CORD NEED TO BE PROTECTED?

Yes! Place the heat pad so that the power cord is not accessible to animals, particularly adult animals. The use of extra protection is always desirable. Special cord protectors are available from Osborne, or plastic conduit can also be used. Installation must ensure that rodents do not use this conduit as a protected hiding place. Such rodents could damage or destroy the power cord insulation.

SHOULD I BE AWARE OF ANY SPECIAL ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS FOR USING OSBORNE HEAT PADS?

No special requirements, other than normal practice used with any electrical device, are needed to use Stanfield Heat Pads. Always use a properly fused electrical system. Ensure a positive ground of all metal in contact with heat pads to avoid electrical shock if a power cord or heat pad is accidentally damaged. The use of a Ground Fault Interrupting (GFI) circuit connected in series with the heat pads is highly recommended, especially when heat pads are used on metal floors or in wet conditions. Ask your electrician to inspect your system for safety.

HOW MUCH ELECTRICITY DOES A STANFIELD HEAT PAD USE?

The Stanfield Heat Pad is designed to minimize power consumption. The low power rate per litter is a strong reason to prefer heat pads rather than expensive alternatives such as heat bulbs. Check out Osborne's Energy Saving Calculator online to compare heat bulbs to Stanfield Heat Pads. You will discover that no other method is more efficient than Stanfield Heat Pads.

WE'VE HEARD SOME ELECTRIC HEAT PADS MADE BY COMPETITORS ARE MORE EFFICIENT OR PROVIDE MORE EVENLY DISTRIBUTED HEAT THAN STANFIELD HEAT PADS. IS THIS TRUE?

Minor differences in efficiency and heat distribution are possible with alternative designs, but none of these differences are significant enough to merit the cost in safety, reliability or initial cost that go with these designs. After testing many alternative designs, our 40 years of success with millions of pigs show that the Stanfield design is reliable, durable, safe, and the most economical solution. Let us give you the accurate details.

DO THE STANFIELD HEAT PADS MEET ALL ELECTRICAL STANDARDS?

Yes. Stanfield Heat Pads are certified to UL, CSA, CE, IEC, and PSE standards for electrical heaters for animals. They are also non-burning and flame-resistant, so electrical fires are prevented. Made with nonporous fiberglass-reinforced thermoset plastic that is resistant to entry of water, Stanfield Heat Pads easily survive the rigorous CSA water immersion test.

WILL PIGS CHEW THE HEAT PAD?

If fastened securely, the thin profile of the heat pad makes damage to the heat pad very difficult. The heat pad should never be exposed to adult animals which could eventually damage it. Always protect the power cord, especially from adult animals.

HOW DOES ONE KNOW IF THE HEAT PAD TEMPERATURE IS RIGHT FOR THE PIGS?

Pig behavior is the best thermostat in the barn. If the pigs leave the heat pad and lay near the sow, check the heat pad. If it is too cool, increase the barn temperature to at least 55°F (13°C) with a space heater or increase the setting on an Osborne Heat Pad Control.

If the pigs lay around the edge of the heat pad rather than directly on it or if they defecate on the heat pad, the heat pad is too warm. Then do one of the following:

- a. Reduce barn temperature (68°F [20°C] is best.)
- b. Reduce setting on Osborne Heat Pad Control.
- c. Unplug pad and use only as thermal / draft barrier.

IS THE SURFACE TOO ROUGH OR TOO SMOOTH?

The surface texture is a good compromise between smoothness (for ease of cleaning and to avoid abrasions), and roughness (to give foot traction and avoid irritating "spraddle leg" problems in young animals). Keeping the heat pad as dry as possible improves footing for young animals.

WHAT IS THE BEST SIZE OF HEAT PAD FOR FARROWING AND LACTATION ON WIRE-MESH OR SIMILAR FLOORS?

For wire mesh and other open-style floors, the heat pad is the only comfortable resting area for the piglets. To avoid crowding out of the smallest, most vulnerable piglets and exposure to drafts, the recommended sizes, based on the number of pigs farrowed, are as follows:

- Farrow Average Size**
- Up to 9 piglets RS1B3 (3-ft long [0.92 m])
 - Up to 12 piglets RS1B4 (4-ft long [1.22 m])
 - Up to 15 piglets RS1B5 (5-ft long [1.52 m])

WHAT IS THE WARRANTY FOR A STANFIELD HEAT PAD?

For over 40 years, Osborne has offered a one-year warranty against defects in materials and workmanship on the heating element. Protection of the power cord is the responsibility of the user, but our reinforced power cord bushing and conduit are very durable. Consult Osborne Customer Service (1-800-255-0316) for warranty details or a copy of our Warranty Statement.

CAN THE POWER CORD BE REPLACED, EXTENDED, OR "HARD-WIRED"?

The power cord can be replaced for a nominal charge if damaged. Clean and return the heat pad, freight prepaid. Clearly mark your name and address directly on the heat pad. Contact Osborne Customer Service for complete instructions. The power cord can be extended or "hard-wired" through a junction box by any qualified electrician.

