



Heads up on tail-docking!

**From 9 May 2021, new rules for
tail-docking sheep come into effect.**



Tail-docking is done for cleanliness and to reduce the risk of flystrike. If you tail-dock your sheep, make sure you know about the new requirements from 9 May 2021.

For sheep under 6 months old

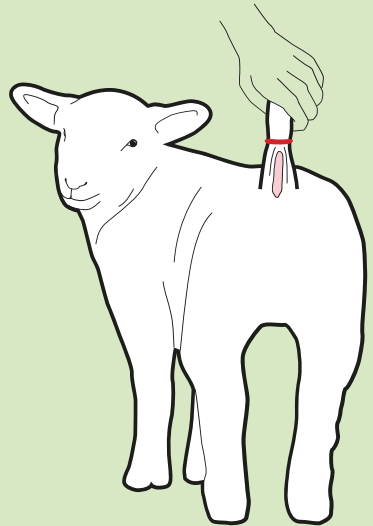
You must use a hot iron or rubber ring.

Otherwise you can be fined \$500

The tail must not be docked any shorter than the distal end of the caudal fold.

Otherwise you can be fined \$500 (or \$1500 for the business) or face a criminal conviction and fine of up to \$1500 (or \$7500 for the business)

The intent is that the tail be left long enough to cover the vulva in ewes, and a similar length in rams.



For sheep over 6 months old

Tail-docking must be done by a veterinarian, using pain relief.

Otherwise you could face a criminal conviction and fine of up to \$3000 (or \$15,000 for the business)

For more information on regulations and the codes of welfare please visit www.mpi.govt.nz/animalregs