



HOW TO CLEAN YOUR WATER STORAGE TANK

STEP 1: CLEAR THE TOP OF THE TANK FOR A CLEAN WORKSPACE

STEP 2: CLEAN YOUR TOOLS

- Mix a cleaning solution of 1 part bleach to 4 parts of hot water in a clean bucket.
- Clean all tools that will come into contact with the water inside the tank.

STEP 3: DRAIN THE TANK

- Collect 2-5 gallon pails of hot water for use in cleaning and rinsing your tank.
- Shut off the valve to the distribution lines.
- Drain as much water as possible. The tank can be drained by running the taps or using a sump pump.
(If you are using a pressure washer with a reservoir ensure that you fill the reservoir with water prior to draining the tank. If you are using a pressure washer without a reservoir do not drain your tank completely).
- Once you have drained the tank as much as possible use the wet/dry vacuum to remove the remaining water on the bottom of the tank.

Step 4: CLEAN THE TANK

(Do not enter the tank unless you are confined space entry trained, are certified to do so, and have all of the appropriate safety gear available)

- Using a mixture of 1 part bleach to 4 parts hot water wash the sides of the tank with the mop (or pressure washer) in order to remove the slime and dirt build up on the sides and corners of the tank.
- Scrub the build-up on the bottom and use the wet/dry vacuum to remove the rinse water from the tank.

Step 5: RINSE THE TANK

- Rinse the sides of the tank with clean water.

Step 6: REMOVE RINSE WATER

- In preparation for disinfection, use the wet/dry vacuum to remove the rinse water from the bottom of the tank.

HOW OFTEN SHOULD WATER TANKS BE CLEANED?

Water storage tanks should be cleaned and disinfected a minimum of once a year. In communities where the water supply has high levels of sediment at certain times of the year, cleaning more often is recommended. The rule of thumb is to do it whenever your household water tastes, looks, or smells unusual.

THINGS YOU WILL NEED FOR CLEANING YOUR TANK:



STEP 7: FILL STORAGE TANK

- Co-ordinate with your water and sewer delivery service to have your tank filled with potable water.

STEP 8: ADD BLEACH

- Add 5 mL of unscented household bleach without fibre guard for every litre(L) of water in the storage tank. For example, a 1,000L tank will require 5L of bleach (about 2 pails of bleach).
- Open the valve to the distribution lines.

STEP 9: DISINFECT

- Run water out of all water taps and faucets in the distribution lines until the smell of bleach is detected in the water. This will disinfect the pipes.

STEP 10: DISINFECT STORAGE TANK

- Let the bleach sit in the water for at least 4 hours. (overnight if possible)

STEP 11: EMPTY AND REFILL TANK

- After the system is disinfected run all of the taps until the tank is dry.
- Co-ordinate with your water and sewer delivery service for a water fill and a sewage pump out.

STEP 12: RUN TAPS - PURGE

- Run water out of all water taps and faucets in the distribution lines until the smell of bleach is gone, or for 2 to 5 minutes.

YOUR TANK IS NOW CLEANED & DISINFECTED AND READY FOR USE.



CLEAN YOUR WATER TANK

(Cleaning instructions for your water storage tank)



WHY CLEAN WATER STORAGE TANKS?

Cleaning and disinfecting your water storage tank is necessary to protect your family's health. It will prevent and remove the build up of solids like sediment, algae and microbial growth that could make you sick. All water contains some solids. Even if you can't see it in your glass, it can build up over time in the water tank. Regular cleaning also makes water look and taste better. It is the home owner's responsibility to make sure that the water tank is cleaned and disinfected on a regular basis.

HOW DO I KNOW THAT MY TANK NEEDS CLEANING?

The water from the delivery truck or pipe has been treated and is safe. If your water comes out of the tap a little bit cloudy or if the water in your glass does not clear up after one minute, the sediment on the bottom of a water storage tank could be the cause. It is often a sign that your tank needs cleaning.