

How to remove limescale from a bathrooms & Kitchens

Limescale is an unfortunate by-product in bathrooms that looks unsightly and unhygienic, so how do you clean it?

The main reason people choose to remove limescale is that it can look terrible, especially if left and neglected for a long time, resulting in heavily stained appliances. But can also lead to **LEGIONELLA**; <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/pontiac-fever>.

This guide is to help you understand what limescale is, whether it's dangerous, and how to remove it.



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What is limescale

The scientific answer is that limescale is a build-up of a hard deposit with a chalk-like appearance which mainly consists of calcium carbonate. It is usually left behind by hard water when it evaporates water that has a high mineral count.

In most cases, you'll find limescale inside kettles, hot water boilers, and pipes. Traditionally, it is found wherever there is warm water. When it comes to bathrooms, this will include taps, shower heads & plugs, where the flow of water may harbour or try to escape.



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You can also have a build-up of limescale from soap suds not being cleaned away. This means basins, mirrors, and tiles can be at risk also toilet bowls.

Is limescale dangerous.

Limescale is another hazard, especially when a building is in an area known for having hardwater. If this is an issue, descaling should always form part of the maintenance approach as this will help minimise the build-up of scale and the amount of sediment inside the pipes etc.

The solution is a simple one though. If the shower head and pipework are cleaned, descaled and **REGULAR FLUSHING OF UNUSED WATER OUTLETS-WEEKLY**, either by frequent use or by flushing the system at regular intervals, bacteria will find it difficult to take hold as they are washed out, as are any nutrients that require stagnant water to grow.



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How to clean limescale

There are various ways to remove limescale, these involve specially made products or home-made solutions. So, if you don't want to smell chemicals or want to be kinder to the environment, you can still remove limescale easily.

What will I need to remove limescale?

As always when cleaning your bathroom, you'll need gloves, mask & goggles, but you may also need the following:

- Lemon juice or full lemons
- White vinegar
- Bathroom cleaner
- Cotton wool
- Cleaning cloths
- *Hard Brillo or green pad*
- Limescale remover (*must follow manufactures guidelines when using*).
- Baking soda
- Spray bottle bleach.

First, put the baking soda into each drain - For this, you will need to mix eight litres of white vinegar with one cup of baking soda per drain - you can also use this on your basin and bath if you can remove the plug from your sink, this will be much easier.

Then, slowly pour in the vinegar and leave it for 3-4 hours (*subject to how bad the condition of sink*). Just to be sure, and to remove any grease, soap, or leftover calcium, pour boiling water quickly down the drain afterwards. This help to achieve the best results. Please ensure the room is well ventilated, by opening windows and extractor fans.



Remove the shower head and rinse it in water, brushing off any leftover limescale. Your shower head should now be completely clean. As with taps, lemon juice will work best with a chrome shower handset.



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An easier alternative to prevent limescale from building up is to wipe surfaces down when wet, with a cloth or shower squeegee just as you would to prevent mould. On glass surfaces, like glass shower screens, wipe them completely dry after showering.