

Your complete guide for how to clean water tank



Maintaining a clean water tank is essential for ensuring the health and safety of your household. Regular cleaning prevents the accumulation of harmful bacteria, algae and sediments that can compromise water quality. This guide will walk you through the process of how to clean your water tank effectively and safely.

Why Cleaning Your Water Tank Is Important

- Protects Health by eliminating harmful pathogens
- Maintains water quality by reducing unpleasant odors and tastes
- Extends tank life by preventing corrosion and damage caused by buildup

Preparation and Safety

- Safety Gear: Wear waterproof gloves, protective eyewear and a mask
- Electrical Safety: Turn off power to any connected electric pumps or heaters
- Notifications: Inform household members not to use taps during the process
- Ventilation: If cleaning from the inside, ensure adequate air circulation to avoid toxic fumes. Never enter a tank unless you are trained and have a spotter outside.

Tools and Materials You'll Need

- Protective gloves and mask
- A long-handled brush and scrubber
- Non-toxic cleaning agents or bleach
- A pressure washer (optional)
- A hose with a spray nozzle
- A bucket or container
- Clean water for rinsing

Step-by-Step Water Tank Cleaning Process

1. Turn Off the Water Supply

Before you begin, disconnect the tank from the water supply to prevent contamination of the incoming water. If the tank supplies water to your home, ensure all outlets are turned off.

2. Drain the Tank

Empty the water tank completely. You can use the water for non-potable purposes, like watering plants or cleaning outdoor areas, to minimise waste.

3. Inspect the Tank

Examine the tank's interior for any visible signs of damage, such as cracks or corrosion. Note any areas that may require extra attention during cleaning.

4. Scrub the Interior

Use a long-handled brush and a non-toxic cleaning solution to scrub the tank's walls and floor. Focus on areas with visible sediment or algae buildup. Avoid using harsh chemicals that could leave harmful residues.

5. Rinse Thoroughly

Rinse the tank thoroughly with clean water to remove any cleaning solution and loosened debris. Use a hose or pressure washer to ensure all residues are washed away.

6. Sanitize the Tank

- (i) Mix a disinfectant solution (such as a chlorine bleach and water mixture) and pour it into the tank. About 10 ml of unscented bleach solution may be added to one metre cube of water.
- (ii) Mix well.
- (iii) Allow it to sit for a few hours to kill any remaining bacteria or algae. Ensure the solution reaches all corners of the tank. However, for a proper disinfection procedure, it is recommended to follow the step (iv) below.
- (iv) Standard Disinfection Procedure

Add unscented household bleach (approx. 5% chlorine). A standard dosage is roughly 50ppm (e.g., about 1 cup per 200 gallons of water)

7. Final Rinse

Drain the tank again and rinse it thoroughly to remove any disinfectant residue. Ensure the water runs clear and free of any chemical odor.

8. Refill and Reconnect

Refill the tank with fresh water and reconnect it to the water supply. Run water through your taps for a few minutes to flush the system.

How to clean sludge from the bottom of the water tank?

To remove sludge, drain the tank completely and use a shovel or scoop to remove the thick deposits at the bottom. Scrub the surface with a long-handled brush and a non-toxic cleaner. Rinse thoroughly with clean water until all residues are cleared.

Regular Cleaning

Perform this process at least every six months.