

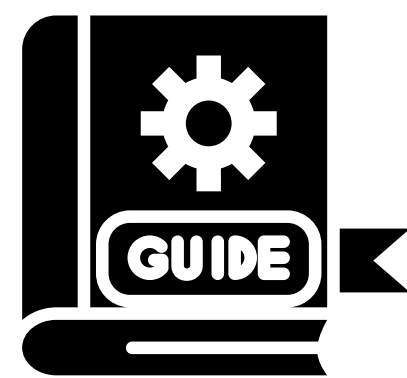


Vert Housing
Specialist Supported Accommodation



Descaling Taps & Shower heads

How to descale



About us & these booklets



This EasyRead booklet is part of a series of booklets about your housing.

We hope you find them useful.



We are Vert Housing, we have been providing specialist supported housing since 2021. We are a not-for-profit company. Company number 13218815



Office

Your local office is Bakewell Court Office.

It is open from 9.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday

Please get in touch with us if you have any questions or need any more information.

Details about how to get in touch with us are at the back of this booklet.

Duties of Care for Legionella Control

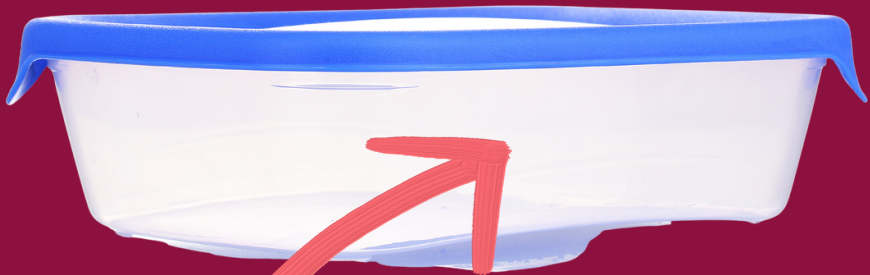


- Housing provider and Care operator responsibilities include the following:
- Ensure stored hot water is heated to 60°C or above and all hot water reaches outlets at 50°C.
- Flush through hot and cold water systems before letting a property if it has been unoccupied for 2 weeks or more (respiratory protection is advised during this process).
- Provide tenants and staff with written information about the risks of Legionella and the correct operation of the hot and cold water system installed in the property.
- Tenant Responsibilities (if appropriate and detailed in tenancy agreement) include: Regular cleaning of shower heads, taps and other spray outlets every 3-6 months Flushing through of any little used/unused outlets every 1-2 weeks.
- Reporting of any issues identified with the hot and cold water system Ensuring heating controls are not altered from their required settings

Descaling shower heads



Unscrew here



Use a suitable container



Use a mixture of white vinegar, water & bicarbonate of soda - please see the mixing guide below

Descaling Your Shower Head

For detachable shower heads:

- **Remove and soak:** Unscrew the shower head from the hose. Place it in a container filled with white vinegar, making sure it's fully submerged. Let it soak for at least 30 minutes, but no longer than an hour. If you have a brass shower head, do not soak it for more than 30 minutes.
- **Scrub:** After soaking, use an old toothbrush or brush to scrub away any remaining limescale and grime. Pay close attention to the nozzles.
- **Rinse and reattach:** Rinse the shower head thoroughly with water and reattach it to the hose.

Descaling taps



The Limey is provided by Vert Housing



Attach the Limey to the end of the tap and leave for an hour.



Wipe & Clean after taking the Limey off.

Descaling Your taps.

Fill the Limey device: Fill the Limey with white vinegar and place it around the tap, making sure all the limescale-affected areas are covered.

- **Secure and wait:** The Limey will fit over the tap, leave it for about an hour.
- **Wipe and rinse:** Remove the Limey and wipe away the loosened limescale. For any stubborn buildup on the spout, you can cut a lemon in half and screw it directly onto the spout for extra cleaning power.
- The used cleaning solution can be poured down the sink as it is safe.

Limescale prevention and how to mix cleaning solutions



Wipe taps and shower heads after each use.



Mix these two ingredients - all of these items are completely natural and safe

To keep limescale at bay, it's a good practice to wipe your taps and shower head dry after each use. Regular cleaning will also prevent heavy buildup and keep your bathroom fixtures looking their best.

For Descaling: The Ratio of White Vinegar to Water

For tackling limescale on taps, showerheads, and in kettles, a simple mixture of white vinegar and water is highly effective.

- **Standard Descaling Solution:** A ratio of 1 part white vinegar to 1 part water is the most common and effective solution for general descaling. This dilution is acidic enough to dissolve mineral deposits without being overly harsh on most surfaces.
- **Heavy-Duty Descaling:** For stubborn limescale buildup, you can use undiluted white vinegar.

Limescale prevention and how to mix cleaning solutions



Mix these three ingredients to make a fizz - all of these items are completely natural and safe.

For General Cleaning and Deodorising:

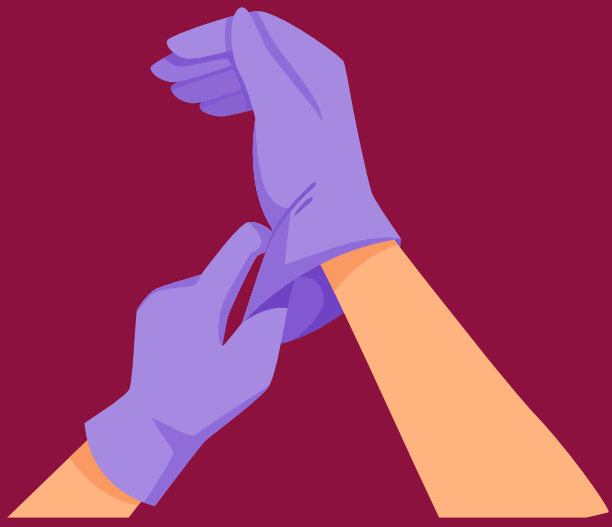
The combination of white vinegar and bicarbonate of soda creates a powerful fizzing action that helps to dislodge grime and neutralise odours. The ratio will vary depending on the desired consistency and cleaning action.

- **Fizzing Action for Drains:** To clear minor clogs and deodorise drains, use equal parts of bicarbonate of soda and white vinegar. A typical recommendation is to pour $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of bicarbonate of soda down the drain, followed by $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of white vinegar.
- **Scrubbing Paste:** For cleaning sinks, bathtubs, and tile grout, create a paste with 3 parts bicarbonate of soda to 1 part water. Apply the paste to the surface and then spray with white vinegar to create a fizzing action for deeper cleaning.
- **All-Purpose Spray Cleaner:** To create a general-purpose cleaning spray, the recommended ratio is:
 - 2 cups of water
 - $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of white vinegar
 - $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of bicarbonate of soda
- **Important Note:** When mixing these ingredients in a spray bottle, do so slowly and with the nozzle off, as the mixture will fizz. It's best to use this mixture immediately after preparation for maximum effectiveness.

Understanding the Chemical Reaction

It's important to understand that the fizzing you see when you mix vinegar (an acid) and bicarbonate of soda (a base) is a chemical reaction that produces carbon dioxide gas. This reaction is what provides the initial cleaning power. Once the fizzing stops, the remaining liquid is primarily water with a small amount of sodium acetate, which has some cleaning properties but is less potent than the initial reaction. For the most effective cleaning, it is often best to apply the bicarbonate of soda first and then add the vinegar to create the cleaning reaction directly on the surface you are cleaning.

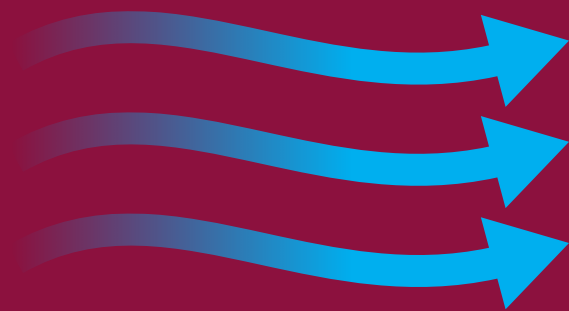
Safety precautions



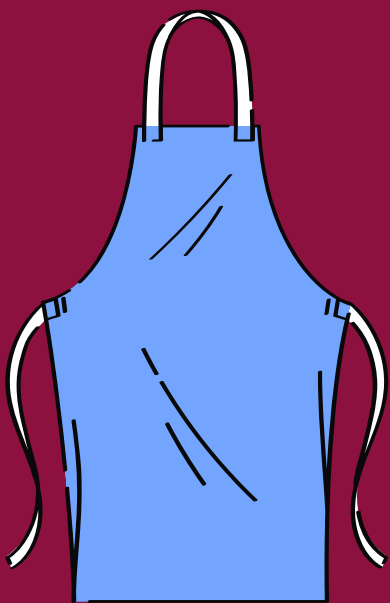
Use nitrile gloves



Use eye protection



Ventilate the room



Wear an Apron



Here's what you should wear and do to stay safe:

1. Protective Gloves

It's a good idea to wear rubber or nitrile gloves when cleaning with this mixture.

- **Why?** Vinegar is a mild acid and can cause skin irritation, dryness, or stinging, particularly if you have sensitive skin or any small cuts or scratches on your hands. Gloves provide a simple and effective barrier.

2. Eye Protection

Consider wearing safety glasses or goggles.

- **Why?** This is the most important precaution. When you mix vinegar and bicarbonate of soda, the solution fizzes and bubbles vigorously. This reaction can easily cause the mixture to splash into your eyes, which would be painful and cause significant irritation.

3. Work in a Well-Ventilated Area

Ensure the room has good airflow by opening a window or turning on an extractor fan.

- **Why?** White vinegar has a very strong, pungent smell due to the acetic acid fumes. While not toxic in the way chemical fumes are, inhaling a lot of it in a small, enclosed space can irritate your nose, throat, and lungs, especially for individuals with asthma or other respiratory sensitivities.

4. Sensible Clothing

You don't need special clothing, but wearing an apron or old clothes you don't mind getting splashed is a smart choice. Long sleeves can also offer an extra layer of protection for your skin.

Crucial Safety Warning

NEVER mix vinegar with bleach or ammonia-based cleaners. Combining vinegar and bleach creates toxic chlorine gas, which is extremely dangerous to inhale. Always use your homemade vinegar and bicarbonate of soda mixture on its own.

How to get in touch with us



You can call our offices at any time of the day or night. If no one is there leave a message and we will get back to you.



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