

Cleaning: Information & tips

Bathroom cleaning

In Denmark the tap water is fresh and safe to drink, but it is also hard (i.e. has a high mineral content). That causes deposits of limescale on all surfaces that get in contact with water.

The limescale is composed of calcium and magnesium salts and it appears as white/yellow-brownish spots, rings or stripes. If a bathroom is not maintained properly (not cleaned regularly), then deposits of limescale starts to build up together with soap residues. This process continues and the deposits will become more and more visible and harder to remove over time.

If the area is cleaned regularly, then the deposits of limescale can be kept in check.

Please note: Always wear gloves when working with chemicals/cleaning agents!

Use cleaning agents designed *for a bathroom* (Ajax, Cillit Bang for example), not the ones which are called "*universal*". Use separate cleaning agents for the bathroom/sinks/faucets (this is acidic for removing limescale deposits) and for the kitchen/other greasy areas (this is alkalic for removing grease).

Use a good bathroom cleaning agent, spray it on the surface, spread it out with a sponge and leave it for about 5-10 minutes to work. The hard (scrubbing) part of a sponge can be used on tiles, glass and ceramic surfaces, but avoid using it on chrome surface of the faucets. It can make scratches on the shiny chrome surfaces.

In order to **prevent the ring/stripe that forms in the toilet**, always remember to clean the toilet with the toilet brush after using it.



Example of how regular cleaning using only a toilet brush can prevent build-up.

If the ring is already building up, you can use cleaning agents that are designed specifically for the bathroom (not universal products!). Spray and let it stay on the surface for minimum 10 minutes. After that, scrub the surface with the toilet brush. You might have to repeat these steps several times. Strong vinegar (32%) or citric acid (both available in convenient stores, called Eddikesyre and Citronsyre in Danish, see image on the right) work fine.



In cases where the limescale has already formed thicker layers (inside of toilet, shower floor, etc.), you can use the following trick:

- rinse the surfaces with cold water so that they are wet
- cover the surface with 2-3 layers of toilet paper
- pour strong vinegar or citric acid on the covered area
- leave it covered for several hours or overnight
- rinse it with water and scrub it with the toilet brush or with the hard side of a sponge
- in some cases, you may have to repeat the process

You can also buy a **soft scrubbing stone**, which is designed for removing limescale in toilets (called WC skure stick, in Danish, see image on the right). This is available in Silvan and some convenient stores.



Shower drains

Shower drains clog due to hair and soap residues after a certain time, which is normal. Cleaning of the shower drain is the tenants' duty.

For proper cleaning, the grid of the shower drain needs to be removed and the trap/bowl needs to be pulled up/out and cleaned well. All hair and soap deposits must be removed. If you have difficulties with cleaning the shower drain, then get in contact with your Resident Assistant or email us. We have documents with detailed descriptions and pictures that guides you through the whole cleaning process.

Bathroom & kitchen sink

If your sink clogs up, then get in contact with us. Do not try to clean it yourself, as not mounting the parts back properly can cause water to drip, which will damage cabinets and the floor. Please note that a sink will easily get clogged if you pour grease or creams into it, or leave your hairs in it. It is the tenant's responsibility to avoid doing this. The costs for cleaning a sink will be charged to the tenants in these cases.

Note: Blocked shower drains and sink can cause severe water damage to wooden floors, which may cost the tenant several thousand Danish crowns to fix. Therefore, we ask that tenants tell us immediately about any sink or drain issues, if they cannot fix them on their own.

Kitchen cleaning

Surface cleaning of the hob

Buy cleaning agents designed for the kitchen (for example Ajax or Cillit Bang), not so-called "universal" products. Use it in the kitchen area for removing grease or greasy spots from cabinets, hobs, sinks, etc. The strongest grease remover is called "Grill rens" (grill cleaner) which can remove the burned/stubborn greasy spots and rings easier. It can be used for metal electric hobs and gas cookers as well. **But be careful during the cleaning process to avoid dropping any of it on the linoleum/wooden floor as the grill cleaner leaves permanent marks!** Spray it on the surface, spread it with a sponge and leave it for about 5-10 minutes to work. The hard (scrubbing) part of a sponge can be used as well. The best tool for cleaning glass ceramic hobs is a razor/scrapper blade (in Danish, Skraber til keramisk kogeplade). Scrubbing can **ONLY** be done together with the use of cleaning agent or soapy water, so **NEVER use it dry** – this would cause scratches on the glass. Then the softened grease needs to be removed/soaked up with paper towels (or soft paper). Finally, it needs to be wiped off with a damp cloth and dried off with a dry cloth/paper towel. **Never** use a grill cleaner on painted surfaces – it can dissolve the paint!

Avoid dripping any high alkalic agents onto the floor, as this can damage it by making permanent spots/discolorations on both linoleum and wooden floors! If it happens, soak it with dry rug or paper towel and wipe it off right away with a damp cloth.

Kitchen hood filter: Usually, the kitchen hood is equipped with 1 or 2 removable aluminium grease filters. Remove and place them in the kitchen sink and soak them with grease or grill cleaner – use a sponge to spread the cleaning agent well on the surface. Leave it for about 10-15 minutes and rinse it thoroughly with hot running water. You might need to repeat the process.

Garbage holder under the kitchen sink

Please find the pictures below regarding the garbage bag holder (it is a simple holder used here in Denmark under the kitchen sink – DO NOT place a trash can into it, you just need to place a household garbage bag in it):



Dust around ventilation (if it is not mold)

The temperature and the humidity difference between fresh/filtered air blown into your room and the air already in the room causes dust to accumulate around the room ventilation over time. *This is built-up dust from inside the room, not from the ventilation (see picture below).*



Usually the room ventilation is located high and it is hard to reach it, but you can do the following:

- Get a sweeper (broom) with a long handle (rod)
- Put a dry rag on it (not wet) and wipe the dust off
- After you have removed it, you can use a slightly wet rag for further cleaning.

Thanks for your cooperation,
Housing Foundation Copenhagen