



# Porcelain Sink Care & Cleaning

A spotless porcelain sink adds beauty and charm to your bathroom — not to mention home value. While porcelain is non-porous, its glaze is susceptible to staining and daily use.

Porcelain sinks can become dull over time. Soap scum and water with a high mineral content leaves a dull finish. If your water contains higher levels of iron, Rust stains are another problem. Also, be careful with hair dyes, nail polish and contact lens cleaners — products containing chemicals that can harm or strip the finish off porcelain.

See below for methods to clean a porcelain sink. If you have an antique or colored porcelain sink, use non-abrasive cleansers, avoid bleach, and contact the manufacturer or a plumber if you have any questions. Don't clean a porcelain sink with anything that would scratch glass.

## Cleaning Materials

Nonabrasive sponge, Dishwashing soap, Bar Keepers Friend (liquid), White vinegar, Bleach (for white porcelain ONLY), Oxygen bleach or hydrogen peroxide, Vinegar or lemon juice, Naval jelly, Paper towels, Spray bottle, Dish towel.

## Daily Cleaning: Gently clean with liquid soap and dry.

Using warm water, liquid soap, and a sponge, gently clean the porcelain sink. Remove any, soap, or toothpaste build-up from the surface. Rinse all soapy residue, and dry with a dish towel.

## Tougher Stains:

Hard scrubbing can damage porcelain. If Daily Cleaning does not remove the discoloration, the use of Hydrogen Peroxide can help remove the discoloration. Pour the Hydrogen Peroxide into a spray bottle. Cover your sink with a layer of paper towels. Spray the Peroxide over the towels, allowing it to soak in thoroughly, and let sit for 30 minutes to an hour. Discard the paper towels, and rinse sink completely with clean water.

For white porcelain **only**, bleach can be used to remove stains. Follow the same instructions above for Peroxide using Bleach instead. Note: never use chlorine bleach in colored or vintage porcelain, as it can damage the finish. For an antique porcelain sink, use white vinegar. Add undiluted white vinegar to a spray bottle and spray the sink. Use a non-abrasive sponge and circular motions to clean the porcelain. Rinse thoroughly with water.

### **Aggressive Stains:**

Try lifting stain with a gentle abrasive. Note that there are many abrasive cleansers on the market, and not all are designed for porcelain. One safe and effective liquid is Bar Keepers Friend (Liquid). Place a small amount into the sink and gently scour the surface with a non-abrasive sponge. The oxalic acid will lift stains, but use sparingly or you risk discoloring and scratching your porcelain.

### **Metal/Rust Stains:**

Tackle silverware stains and orangey-red rust separately, using these methods. For Metal Stains, add a few drops of either lemon juice or white vinegar directly to the stain (do not mix). Let sit for several minutes, monitoring the color of the stain. Do not scrub. Remove with water. For rust stains, use naval jelly. Apply a thin coat to the stained area, monitor carefully, and rinse as soon as you notice a change in the color of the stain. Naval jelly is primarily used to remove rust from metal, so exercise caution and rinse it quickly from porcelain as soon as the stain lifts.



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