

Cleaning Porcelain/Ceramic Sinks

We throw a ton of abuse at our bathroom and kitchen sinks without much thought, simply expecting them to manage. Your weekly cleaning service might take over the duties around cleaning your porcelain sinks, but when you're responsible for all the chores around the house, it isn't hard to fall out of step with the regular care of your sink.

Before long, you might notice the neglect as your porcelain fades from dazzling to drab, with collections of stains replacing a once-faultless finish. At that point, it becomes even harder to restore that sparkling shine.

But all is not lost. A few clever solutions can make stain removal surprisingly simple.

How to Clean Porcelain Sinks

The best way to get rid of stains on porcelain sinks is to keep them from being set in the first place. After installation, use a product like [Novatto's Glacier Ice Sink Cleaner with Sealer Kit, NOV-GI/RSS](#). Then, make it a habit to clean your porcelain. It needs cleaning at least once a week, but it's even better to give it a daily wipe down.

If you stay on top of it, it shouldn't take more than mild soap and warm water to scrub away soap scum, toothpaste, stuck-on food, and other types of grime. You can use a soft sponge or gentle scrubber to protect the smooth glaze finish from damage.

Porcelain has a glass-like coat that is susceptible to scratches. Never use hard abrasives like steel wool to scour porcelain, and be careful with anything acidic, as it can dull the finish. If you use an acidic cleaner, make sure to always rinse your sink thoroughly after use.

Methods for Removing Porcelain Stains

Wiping down porcelain with soap and water will prevent most stains, but there is always a chance of leftover spotting and discoloration after the initial cleaning. After clearing any residue, grime, and dirt off the surface, try these simple methods to remove difficult stains from your porcelain sink after testing first on unseen areas if possible.

Baking Soda, Lemon, and Vinegar: The All-Natural Approach

Baking soda creates a soft scrub that can tackle minor stains in a sink without marring the porcelain. Follow these steps to buff away stains with baking soda:

1. Use a moist sponge to make the inside of the sink slightly damp
2. Sprinkle baking soda over the stain until it is completely covered
3. Use a sponge or cloth to gently scrub in small circular motions until the stains are gone
4. Rinse away the remaining baking soda after removing the stains

If baking soda isn't quite getting it done, you can bump the stain-fighting power up a notch with lemon. Rub lemon wedges all over the inside of the sink, concentrating on the stained sections. Let the lemon sit for at least an hour, and then rinse it away to reveal a bright bleached surface.

Vinegar and baking soda are a versatile, efficient cleaning team for several spaces around the house. If you don't have lemon, follow your baking soda application with an undiluted vinegar spray to get rid of hard water marks and other difficult stains. Scrub down the sink and wash the vinegar off with plenty of water.

Hydrogen Peroxide and Oxygen Bleach: All-Around Porcelain Stain Fighters

You can enhance your baking soda cleanser by adding hydrogen peroxide to the sponge before wiping it down. Hydrogen peroxide gives baking soda an added punch to clear any yellow stains.

For antique or colored porcelain, hydrogen peroxide and oxygen bleach are the most effective household cleaners for tough stains. Line your sink with paper towels, then spray them with hydrogen peroxide until they are thoroughly soaked and clinging to the basin. Let them sit for at least half an hour before removing them and rinsing the sink.

Chlorine Bleach: The Best Stain Remover for White Porcelain

When all else fails, you might have to reach for the hard stuff. Chlorine bleach can remove those tough stains if your all-natural strategy isn't working.

Only use bleach on white porcelain because it can damage the color and finish of vintage or colored porcelain. Apply bleach the same way as hydrogen peroxide, coating paper towels and letting them sit for at least 30 minutes before rinsing the sink.

If you decide to use bleach, it needs to be on a completely clean sink. Any vinegar or chemical residue can spark a [dangerous reaction](#) with bleach. You could expose yourself to toxic, and potentially lethal, gases when you mix bleach with any other cleaner.

The Best Porcelain Cleaning Products

Household cleaning staples can get the job done in most cases, but when you need specialized performance, you can find some amazing cleaners online.

When you're dealing with tough metal or rust stains, try [naval jelly](#) if lemon and vinegar aren't working. It's a heavy-duty rust dissolver mainly used for metal, but it's practical on porcelain if you're careful.

Rub a thin layer of naval jelly over the sink and watch it dissolve the stain. As soon as the stain disappears, rinse it all off to avoid damaging the porcelain.

Two other reliable solutions for most porcelain stains are products like [Novatto's Glacier Ice Sink Restorer and Cleaner with Sealer Kit, NOV-GI/RSS](#) and [Bar Keeper's Friend](#), both are gentle yet strong multi-purpose cleaner. Along with porcelain, you can use them on ceramic, stone, brass, and many other metal surfaces.

If you have deep set-in stains, these cleaners are an effective solution. Make sure you follow their directions for use. As with many other chemical cleaners, you'll need to wash it out thoroughly AND immediately after using it to avoid harming the porcelain.

Maintain Your Porcelain

Porcelain is strong and stunning, but it demands regular attention if you want to keep your kitchen and bathroom looking immaculate. When you follow the above simple steps for removing tough stains, cleaning your porcelain sink becomes fast, painless, and super easy.