Checklist

Cleaning the water tank in a motorhome

Whether you're **brushing your teeth**, **taking a shower**, or **cooking**—**clean water is essential for everyday life while camping**. With the right cleaning routine, your fresh water system stays **free of germs, limescale, and biofilm and actively protects your health**.

Key Points at a Glance

- Regular cleaning protects your health, prevents germs, limescale, and biofilm
- Every 4 – 6 weeks during active use
- Essential before and after the season
- Entire system: pipes, hoses, fittings
- Specialized camping cleaners (home remedies only for light limescale)
- Active cleaning time approx. 30 – 45 min. + soaking time
- Prevention: clean water, use your own hoses, let the system dry out

Preparation

- ○ Choose a location with a fresh water supply, drain, and sufficient space
- ○ Gather supplies: water, bucket, hose, gloves, soft cloths / brushes
- ○ Ensure the cleaner is suitable for fresh water systems and the material
- ○ Check the manufacturer's instructions (dosage, application, contact time)

Step-by-Step Instructions

- ○ Completely drain the system (open the faucets, turn off the pump)
- ○ Pre-clean the tank manually (using a soft cloth or brush; do not scrub)
- ○ Mix cleaning solution according to instructions
- ○ Fill tank (do not fill to the brim, depending on the product)
- ○ Flood pipes (pump on, all cold and hot taps open)
- ○ Allow solution to sit for the time specified by the manufacturer
- ○ Drain solution completely
- ○ Rinse several times with fresh water

Optional: Flush the solution from step 7 into the gray water tank and take a short drive – this also cleans the black water tank.

Duration

- Active working time: 30 – 45 min.
- Drying time for special cleaner: 4 – 6 hours
- Drying time for citric acid: 6 – 12 hours
- Light soiling: 1 – 2 hours
- Always follow the product instructions

Reasons

- Germs and bacteria from stagnant water
- Biofilm (slime) on interior walls
- Limescale deposits clog pipes and strain pumps

Frequency

- Regular use: every 4 – 6 weeks
- Occasional use: at least 2× a year
- Start of the season in spring: Remove any residue from the off-season
- Before winter storage in fall: Clean thoroughly before storing

Choosing a cleaner

- Professional cleaners (hydrogen peroxide, chlorine dioxide, active oxygen) – colored ones leave residue
- Home remedies: citric acid (only for limescale, only in cold or lukewarm water)
- Not suitable: household cleaners, concentrated vinegar, strong limescale removers

Note: Consult a specialist retailer; never mix cleaners.

Preventing contamination

- Fill with clean water (use your own drinking-water-safe hose)
- Filter out coarse particles with a pre-filter
- In hot weather, replace the water every 1 – 2 weeks, and empty it before breaks
- Prevent mold: Leave taps and inspection covers open (to dry out)
- Watch for warning signs: smell, taste, appearance

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