

How to Clean Your Washing Machine

If you're like most people, you think your washing machine is something that **does** the cleaning, not something that **needs** cleaning. Luckily, you don't have to add another laborious chore to your list. Cleaning your washer is safe and simple with [affresh® washing machine cleaner tablets](#).

Where is the Mildew Smell in my Washer Coming From?

Do you know what's hiding inside your washing machine? **Affresh®** was developed to remove grime and odor-causing residues which can form in the washer over time. **Affresh®** was evaluated against soap scum, dirt, grease, lint, water minerals and fabric softener soils to help with removal of these relevant soils and residues. This residue nests in moist areas and creates a haven for grime that accumulates over time.

This buildup can live behind the gasket of your front loader, in the drum, under or around the lid or door and in your dispensers — even in parts you can't see. Without proper care, this buildup can create a moldy or mildew smell.

That grime and buildup in your washer can also get left behind on your clothing and lead to that musty smell. It's hard to get clean clothes from a dirty washer.

Affresh® washing machine cleaner deep cleans your washer to help remove the odor-causing residues and grime that can form in machines over time, without proper care.



How to Clean a Washing Machine with affresh®

You may have heard about DIY home remedies for cleaning your washing machine with vinegar or baking soda. These cleaning hacks may be helpful if you're in a pinch, but you could end up measuring and running multiple cycles.

You want easy and efficient when it comes to getting the smell out of your washer. We get it. How about dropping a tablet into your washer, pushing start and walking away? Now that's simple.

Steps for How to Clean a Washing Machine

Affresh® is specially formulated to help remove odor-causing residues in your washing machine. [Affresh® washing machine cleaner](#) uses time-released tablets that are designed to clean inside all machines, including HE (High Efficiency). The tablet dissolves slowly throughout the wash cycle to continually send powerful cleansers to help remove buildup.

Here's the simple process to use **affresh®**:

Step 1: Prep Your Washer and Add affresh®

Remove clothing or other items from your washer. Open package of **affresh®** washing machine cleaner tablets. Select one tablet and place **affresh®** tablet inside your empty washing machine (not the dispenser).

Step 2: Start Your Washer

Select Clean Washer cycle if your washer has one or Normal or Heavy cycle and Hot water temperature. If necessary, refer to your model's Use and Care Guide for the necessary cycle selection. Start washer.

Step 3: Wipe Away Residue

Wipe away any residue with a clean microfiber cloth. Since the tablets are time-release, sometimes some will remain in the bottom of the tub. This is normal. Simply remove with your cloth.

Step 4: Repeat if Needed

Repeat process if you've never cleaned your washer, it has been more than 6 months since a cleaning, or there is excessive residue buildup or odor. Up to 3 consecutive cleaning cycles may be necessary in extreme cases.

With **affresh®** washing machine cleaner there's no mixing, measuring or pouring required to get your washing machine clean and shiny. **Affresh®** does not contain harsh chlorine bleach and is made from EPA Safer Choice certified ingredients. It's safe for septic systems as well as municipal water supplies.

How Often Should I Clean My Washer to Prevent Buildup?

Use **affresh®** washing machine cleaner monthly or every 30 wash cycles for best results and a consistent clean. Staying on top of cleaning your washer with **affresh®** means you don't give residues a chance to take up residence in your machine.

Here are some other tips to keep your washer from smelling not-so-nice:

- Keep the door of your front loader or the lid of your top loader washing machine open between loads. This allows the drum to ventilate and more fully dry and reduces your chances of getting mold or mildew.
- Wipe down the interior and exterior of the rubber gasket of your front loader after you've finished your laundry each time.
- Wipe out the detergent dispensers of your washing machine weekly.
- Schedule your monthly **affresh®** washer cleaning on your calendar so you don't forget! **Affresh®** comes in multi-packs so you can keep a supply on hand.

What's in **affresh®** Tablets & Liquid Cleaners?

If you're wondering what is in **affresh®** appliance care cleaners for your washing machine, dishwasher, glass top stove or cooktop, coffee maker, ice machine or garbage disposal, use this ingredients list as a guide. All **affresh®** cleaners are septic-safe, and all dishwasher, washer, and disposal tablets are made with EPA Safer Choice ingredients.

While we aren't giving away the secret formula, we can break down the main ingredients in our products so you'll know what you're using when you clean your appliances.

What are the main ingredients of **affresh®** cleaners?

Although every formula is different, the main active ingredients in **affresh®** tablets are sodium carbonate (washing soda) and sodium percarbonate (oxygen-based bleach). These septic-safe ingredients cut through grime, remove residues that cause odors, and rinse away as oxygen and water.

Ingredients in each tablet are specialized for the kinds of residue each appliance can accumulate. For best results, use the **affresh®** appliance cleaner product designed for that specific appliance.

Liquid cleanser ingredients for ice machines and glass cooktop cleaning are different. Read on to learn what each **affresh®** cleaner is made of.

What is in **affresh®** washer cleaner?

There are two active ingredients in **affresh®** washing machine cleaner, and they are common ones you likely already know and use:

- *Sodium percarbonate*: This is commonly known as “oxygen-based bleach” or “oxygen bleach.” It doesn’t contain any chlorine and is safe for stainless steel appliances and your pipes. Sodium percarbonate releases hydrogen peroxide when it contacts water, which can help remove grime and odor-causing residues.
- *Sodium carbonate*: Commonly known as washing soda or soda ash, this ingredient in **affresh®** washing machine cleaner is also found in laundry and dishwashing detergents, all-purpose cleaners, sanitizing sprays, and in soap and glass making. Soda ash helps cut through grease and softens water. You’ll also see sodium carbonate on the labels of many green cleaning products.

In addition to these active ingredients in **affresh®** washing machine cleaner, each tablet also contains:

- *Polyethylene glycol*, an ingredient used in many laundry detergents, shampoos, cosmetics and even in pharmaceuticals. It helps keep the tablet together and helps it to foam and dissolve slowly after contact with water.
- *Glucono-delta-lactone*, a common food additive that helps keep **affresh®** washer cleaner tablets from breaking down in their package.
- *Sodium acetate* also helps bind the tablets. You only want them to start working their magic once they come in contact with water in your washing machine!
- *Time-release ingredients* **affresh®** washing machine cleaner contains time-release ingredients for an extended cleaning throughout the clean wash cycle.
- *Fragrance*. **affresh®** washing machine cleaner has a fantastic scent that leaves your washer smelling fresh and clean.

Learn how to clean your washing machine with the powerful ingredients in **affresh®** washer cleaner.

Ingredients in **affresh®** Dishwasher Cleaner

The ingredient list for **affresh®** dishwasher cleaner is similar to, but not the same as, what’s in **affresh®** washing machine cleaner. Your washing machine doesn’t deal with food debris buildup, for example, and each appliance gets different residue from the unique detergents. The ingredients in **affresh®** dishwasher cleaner include:

- *Sodium carbonate*, aka washing soda or soda ash. See above.
- *Sodium bisulfate*, a pH adjuster and descaler

- *Citric Acid*, a pH adjuster to help the cleansers work more effectively. You'll also find this ingredient in sodas, juice and candies, especially sour-flavored ones.
- *Polyethylene glycol*, a processing aid to help maintain the tablet and disperse ingredients. See above.
- *Sodium benzoate*, another processing aid
- *Sodium gluconate*, a third processing aid
- *Sodium polyacrylate co-polymer*, a water softener that helps the ingredients work on tough residue, including from hard water.
- *Sodium acetate*, a buffer that helps bind the ingredients into tablet form. See above.

Follow our guide for how to clean a dishwasher to let the ingredients in **affresh®** dishwasher cleaner get to work on the residues that can cause dishwasher odor.

What's in affresh® coffee maker cleaner?

Affresh® coffee maker cleaner is designed to counteract the residue and hard water scaling that coffee machines can get when not properly maintained. Ingredients in **affresh®** coffee maker cleaner include:

- *Sodium carbonate*, aka soda ash, a buffer and builder that helps cut through grime.
- *Sodium bisulfate*, a pH adjuster to help ingredients work better, and descaler.
- *Citric acid*, a pH adjuster
- *Sodium gluconate*, *Sodium acetate*, and *Polyethylene glycol*, processing aids that help bind the ingredients into tablet form and release them throughout the cleaning cycle.

Follow these steps for how to clean a coffee maker and descale your machine.

Ingredients in affresh® garbage disposal cleaner

If you're wondering what's in **affresh®** disposal cleaner, it's more than the DIY baking soda and vinegar method. **Affresh®** disposal cleaner ingredients work together to help get rid of grime and odor-causing residues in your sink disposal and leave a fresh, clean scent.

- Sodium percarbonate, aka oxygen-based bleach, an oxidizer.
- Sodium bicarbonate, aka baking soda, which acts as a buffer and reacts with acid ingredients to remove residues.
- Citric acid, a pH adjuster, see above.
- Sodium lauryl sulfate, a cleaning agent also found in laundry detergents, shampoos and body washes.
- Sodium starch glycolate, glucono-delta-lactone, sodium acetate, and magnesium stearate, these salts and minerals are a processing aid and buffers to help maintain tablet form and release ingredients.
- Fragrance

Here's how to clean the garbage disposal in your sink with the powerful, septic-safe ingredients in **affresh®** disposal cleaner.

What's in affresh® cooktop cleaner?

The ingredients in **affresh®** cooktop cleaner for glass top stoves fall into five categories: cleaning agents, solvents to hold them, glass-safe abrasives to remove burnt-on residue, thickening agents to create a liquid that will stay on the stovetop, and fragrance.

View the full ingredient disclosure for **affresh®** cooktop cleaner and review our steps for how to clean a glass top stove or cooktop.

Ingredients in affresh® ice machine cleaner

Your ice machine needs to be cleaned regularly to help keep your ice tasting great. These ingredients in **affresh®** ice machine cleaner work together to help descale and remove residues that can build up in your ice maker, especially if you have hard water.

- Water
- Sodium Bisulfate, a descaler and pH adjuster.
- Citric Acid, a pH adjuster and descaler.
- Colorants (Acid Green 9 and Acid Yellow 23)

Learn how to clean an ice maker in 7 easy steps with the septic-safe descaling ingredients in **affresh®** ice machine cleaner.

Use What's in affresh® to Clean Your Appliances Monthly

Affresh® appliance cleaners make it easy to clean your washing machine, dishwasher, coffee maker, ice machine, disposal, or cooktop. You can even use **affresh®** stainless steel cleaners to remove hard water spots and food stains from your stainless or black stainless appliance fronts.

View the ingredients disclosures and safety data sheets for all **affresh®** products at our document hub. As with all cleaning products, it's best to wash your hands after handling an **affresh®** tablet or cleaning solution. This is just extra precaution in case of mild irritation to skin or eyes if you rub them.

Safer Choice Ingredients to Help Protect Your Family

The ingredients in **affresh®** dishwasher cleaner tablets, washing machine tablets, disposal tablets, and coffee machine cleaner tablets are certified Safer Choice by the Environmental Protection Agency, so you can use them with confidence. When used according to the instructions on the package, the ingredients in **affresh®** tablets are safe for humans, your machine, your pipes and your septic system, yet powerful enough to remove odor-causing residues and get your appliances clean and fresh.