

# **Important Focus Points for the Bathroom**

**In this section you will learn more details about deep-cleaning the important bits of the bathroom.** Follow the steps here to make sure that you get a good clean every time. This will set you apart from other cleaners, help you maintain hygiene standards and show how valuable having a professional cleaner can be.

## **The Toilet**

Begin by cleaning around the bowl with the toilet brush. Then, prop the brush under the seat to drain. Spray both the brush and toilet from top to bottom with disinfectant. This can be cleaner or vinegar spray. Let the spray sit for a few minutes. Use toilet roll to wipe down the toilet bowl and dispose of the paper in the bowl, to flush away. Do the same for the tank and handle. Add the toilet bowl cleaner to the toilet bowl. Leave it for a time, according to the manufacturer's instructions, before washing it away. Leave the brush to drain under the seat again. If you are cleaning in a commercial setting remember to wipe down the doors, stalls, toilet roll dispensers and any sanitary containers found in the bathroom.

## **The Shower**

Cleaning the shower requires you to use the shower cleaner according to its instructions. However, there are several important parts of the shower that you need to ensure are clean. Here are a few things that you will need to clean when cleaning the shower:

### **(a) Cleaning the Shower Doors**

Start by spraying the doors with the cleaning solution. You can use a shower door cleaner but if you do not have one a general cleaner will do. Use your sponge and clean the inside and the outside of the doors. Make sure you clean the area where the doors overlap so that everything gets clean. If you cannot get in with the sponge, spray your shower cloth, put it on a brush and move it in the door. Then, do the same thing with a dry cloth. After you have cleaned the doors you will need to clean the runners on the shower doors. Spray them with a cleaning solution and use the same brush and cloth combination to make sure that you can fully get into the runner. Use the brush and cloth to push any dirt or grime towards the shower, catching it with a second cloth. After you have cleaned the glass, use a degreaser or a mild alkaline cleaning solution and spray it on the shower doors. Then, dry and polish the doors with a clean cloth.

### **(b) Removing the Stains**

After you have cleaned the shower, the doors and wiped down, you might notice that there are still some marks left. Hard water stains or lime scale are often found on shower doors and they are unsightly. Hard water stains build up when the water on the shower surface evaporates and leaves minerals from the water on the surfaces. Soap scum often sticks to this which then makes it look even worse. The best way to tackle hard water stains is to prevent them. If your client asks, suggest they purchase a squeegee to use on the doors after every shower, so that water does not sit on the surface. You can also recommend a daily spray product for clients to use each time they shower. However, to remove these stains you need the right cleaners. Most general bathroom cleaners will be alkaline and have a bleach base. For soap scum and hard water stains you will need an acidic cleaner to break up the minerals. You might need a specialist cleaner for difficult stains and it is good to keep one in stock, particularly in rural areas where the water can be harder. To use the special cleaner, just follow the instructions on the bottle and use a dedicated lime scale cleaner cloth. Avoid mixing up the cloths in the event your specialist product has a reaction with your general products.

### **(c) Unclogging the Drain**

Use an untwisted wire hanger to remove any visible hair from the drain. Then add a drain cleaner or an ammonia mixture to the drain to get rid of any soap that may be adhering to the pipes.

### **(d) Fixing the Shower Head**

If the shower head is not working properly you should clean it to restore the water spray. First, wipe any dry debris from the head using the sponge used on the tile. If that does not work, fill up a plastic bag with 1 cup of white vinegar and 1 cup of water. Place the shower head in the bag so that holes are covered. Leave it to soak for between 15 minutes to one hour, depending on the time available to you. Once that is done, wipe any deposits off the shower head and run the shower to flush out the rest of the appliance.

### **(e) Washing the Shower Curtain**

If there is a shower curtain, you may be required to wash it. Most plastic shower curtains are washable (check the curtain's washing instruction label to make sure). Plastic shower curtains can be cleaned in a washing machine. To get best results, add a few towels and some detergent into the load. Hang the shower curtain to dry. If the shower curtain is made out of fabric, there is generally a care label to follow, to avoid any damage.

## **The Bath**

You can use general surface cleaners on a bath tub but for a better result it is advisable to use a cleaner specifically designed for bath tubs. Another recommendation is to look for a scrub or a cleaning paste rather than using a spray. The scrubs are better for breaking up the grime that builds up on the tub. Use all products in accordance with their instruction.

## **Black Mould**

Sometimes you will encounter black mould near or around the tub. Black mould needs to be removed as it is unsightly and can be bad for some people's health. Removing the area of black mould requires more than a general household cleaner. Usually you use ammonia or bleach when cleaning black mould. However, never mix the two or use one after the other. Also, it is preferable to use ammonia when cleaning mould because the bleach does not kill the mould and if it is living in a porous area, it will just grow back later. If using ammonia, combine the ammonia and the water in equal proportions. Pour the solution into the dedicated spray bottle and spray the areas evenly, making sure you reach even the smallest patches of mould. Let it sit for up to 10 minutes so that it kills the mould. After 10 minutes take a scrubbing brush or a scourer and wipe clean. The mould should come off but the process may need to be repeated if the mould is old or there is a lot of it. If you do choose to use bleach, combine a cup of bleach with four litres of water. Add it to the dedicated spray bottle and spray it to the mouldy areas. If the spray bottle does not work, apply it with a brush. Let it sit and then brush it away using a brush or a scrub. Do not rinse the area if you are using bleach. Give it time to disinfect the area and stop the mould from growing back.

**Some people do not like using bleach or ammonia in their bathrooms. If the client you are working with will not let you use chemicals, you can try the following alternatives:**

- Vinegar
- Tea tree oil
- Baking soda
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Grapefruit seed extract

## **The Bidet**

You may encounter a bidet when cleaning houses. Although it may be unfamiliar, it is not very different to cleaning the rest of the toilet. Also, most bidets have a self-cleaning function that will keep the pipes clean. This means that you generally do not have to worry about anything other than keeping the exterior clean. You will clean the bidet after the toilet is totally clean. Then, you can wipe down the nozzles of the bidet with an antibacterial wipe. Make sure you wipe other exposed parts, too. After it is all clean, run the bidet once or twice to flush it out.

## **The Counter**

You might expect the counter to be the easiest part of cleaning the bathroom. It is a smooth, flat surface that does not require you to bend or twist. However, the counter is important because you need to use the right cleaning agents. To do this, you need to determine what the counter top is made out of. If you have a tiled counter top you can use a general bathroom cleaning agent. Just spray, let it sit and then wipe it up. If you have a plastic or laminate surface you can use a mild bleach or warm water. Do not use abrasive brushes or sponges on these counter tops. Be careful when using bleach on a new counter top - test an area to make sure you will not alter the colour. If you have a stone surface, such as marble or granite, you will need a water-based cleaner. The best cleaners will be pH-neutral or a cleaner that is specifically designed to clean stone. Do not use a scrub or a brush on the counter top. Always use a microfiber cloth or another soft damp cloth. Using anything abrasive on the counter top will cause damage. To remove a stain from a stone surface, make a past from baking soda and water and apply to the stain. Gently rub the stain with a soft brush or a soft cloth. If the stain is deep, you may need several applications to get it to work. Remember to always start carefully when cleaning counters. It is better to use too little cleaner and work slowly than to use too much and cause damage.