



Cleaning Your Water Ionizer with a White Vinegar Wash

If the output from your alkaline spigot diminishes over a period of time, your ionizer may need cleaning because of mineral build-up due to your source water. Depending on the hardness and Calcium levels in your source water, build-up usually does not become an issue for at least 8-24 months of use. People living in extremely hard areas may wish to use a vinegar wash once every three (3) months.

To check for build-up in your Athena, Isis, or Venus: Remove the Alkaline Flex Hose (silver tube) and inspect both ends for signs of any white residue building up inside the hose. Some people would describe the residue as looking like a white crust on the inside of the hose. The appearance of this white ring would be a clear sign of excessive build-up.

Note: If your Flex Hose shows signs of build-up, you will want to properly clean and prep it prior to a Vinegar Wash. Cleaning and prepping will get the job done much faster (see Alkaline Flex Hose Cleaning Instructions below).

The best time for your vinegar wash is when you're ready to replace the filter(s). Use the filter(s) that are ready to be replaced for the Vinegar Wash. You may choose to store these filter(s) refrigerated in a sealed container for re-use in your next wash.

The safest way to clean the unit so as not to damage the electrodes and clean those hard to reach areas in your Ionizer, is to re-circulate white vinegar through the unit using a small fish tank pump or small water-garden pump (\$15 - \$40). An AlkaViva Bottled Water Dispensing System can also be used.

Alkaline Flex Hose Cleaning Instructions

You can also remove the Alkaline Flex Hose (silver tube) from the unit and submerge it completely in the white vinegar overnight to soften and remove much of the calcium build-up. At this point, you may want to take the following action: Remove the Calcium Port Cap and pour a cup of white vinegar into your Calcium Port, and let the ionizer sit for several hours or overnight before you begin your Wash.

To protect your Flex Hose in the future, we recommend you run acidic water for 5 - 10 minutes at least twice a week. And a Vinegar Wash every 3 months. Under any calcium build-up situation and especially for those with extreme calcium build-up, we recommend installing the AlkaViva Scale Guard Inserts. Please refer to your AlkaViva site for ordering information.

Note: The ionizer must be unplugged from its power source while cleaning the unit in this manner.



White Vinegar Wash Steps

1. Fill a five (5) gallon container with 3 gallons of ACIDIC WATER from your ionizer. This water will be used to rinse your ionizer as the final step of the wash.
2. Unplug the Water Ionizer from the electrical outlet.

Note: The filter(s) must be securely placed in the water ionizer for cleaning using this method.

3. Add a one (1) gallon container of WHITE VINEGAR to the three (3) gallons of acidic water for the pump and attach the INLET hose from the water ionizer to the pump. Submerge the pump into the white vinegar. The Vinegar Water will now become your water source for the ionizer.

Note: Depending on the pump you purchase, may require some minor modifications so that the white 1/4 inch hose will fit into the pump properly. The Flo Jet Pump does not require any adjustments. Many types of adapters are available at your local hardware store.

4. Prepare the container to capture the vinegar wash water coming out of the Alkaline Flex Hose (silver tube) and acidic drain line (grey tube) for re-use in the ionizer until the process is complete. The solution will circulate the mixture.
5. Plug the small fish tank pump, small water-garden pump or Flo Jet Pump in to the electrical outlet. (A GFI safety plug should be used for this in order to protect against electrocution).

Note: The water ionizer must be unplugged from its power source while cleaning the unit.

6. Now you are ready to turn the pump on and start pushing white vinegar through your ionizer. At first, there may be very little flow through the flex hose (silver tube). However, as long as the slightest amount of vinegar is flowing through the tube, the vinegar will eventually dissolve the calcium that is blocking the water from flowing out.
7. Run and re-circulate the vinegar wash through the ionizer multiple times. This process could take several hours.
8. Remove the pump from the ionizer and reinstall it for use.
9. Before you begin to use the ionizer, flush the ionizer with water for 10-20 minutes on the purified setting to rinse the vinegar from the unit.
10. Now it's time to install new filters so that you may begin to use your ionizer again.

Extreme Calcium buildup causes the pH of the ionized water to drop.

Once your water ionizer is cleaned using this method, the pH of the ionized water will be higher.