



How to Perform a Vinegar Wash

If the output of water from your ionizer's Flex Hose slows down 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 (and if you have no pre-treatment in place) build-up could become an issue within 8-24 months of use. People living in very hard water areas should discuss pretreatment options with AlkaViva to avoid mineral build up and possible damage before using their ionizer.

To protect your ionizer, run acidic water for 5 - 10 minutes at least twice a week. In addition, perform a vinegar wash about every 3 months if you have experienced calcium buildup. If you notice continued calcium buildup or you live in a hard water area, we recommend that you test your water and follow the Hard Water Pretreatment recommendations at

<http://www.alkaviva.net/hard-water-pretreatment-options.php>

To check for build-up in your Ionizer (except Delphi):

Remove the Flex Hose (silver tube connected at the top) and inspect both ends for signs of any white residue building up inside the hose. It usually looks like a white deposit at the tip of the hose. The appearance of this white ring is a clear sign of excessive build-up. Be sure to properly clean the Flex Hose before starting the vinegar flush. **NOTE:** If the ionizer is under your sink and you are using an Undersink Kit, check for mineral buildup where the alkaline tubing connects to your ionizer. Mineral buildup is not always visible at the faucet.

To check for build-up in your Delphi:

Inspect the end of the main Alkaline Faucet output for white build-up. Once buildup has reached the tip of the faucet you can expect to have it throughout the unit. The Delphi has 5/16" tubing going from the base unit up to the Alkaline Faucet. Disconnect the 5/16" tubing and submerge it completely in the **WHITE VINEGAR** overnight to soften and remove much of the calcium build-up.

The best time to do your vinegar wash is before replacing your filter(s). Keep your old filter(s) during the vinegar wash. To avoid damaging electrodes and thoroughly clean your ionizer, the safest way is to re-circulate **white vinegar** through the unit using a small fish tank pump or small water-garden pump (\$15 - \$40).

White Vinegar Wash Using a Pump

1. **Always unplug the ionizer** (except Delphi-without flow control knob on tower. See #9) from the electrical outlet. Make sure the filter(s) are secured in the ionizer before proceeding with this method.
2. Disconnect the Flex Hose from the ionizer and submerge it completely in the **white vinegar** overnight to soften and remove much of the calcium buildup.
2. In a large, clean plastic container, prepare 1-2 gallons of **white vinegar**, enough vinegar to cover the pump and run through the ionizer.
3. From the cold water supply, disconnect the 1/4" tubing that brings cold water to your ionizer and connect it to the pump. **NOTE:** If your installation method does not allow you to disconnect the 1/4" tubing from the cold water supply or if it is too short, you will need to buy additional 1/4" tubing from a hardware store. Connect this new 1/4" tubing to the **Water INLET** at the bottom of the ionizer and then to the pump.
4. **Submerge the pump** into the white vinegar. The vinegar is now your water source for the ionizer. **NOTE:** The pump you purchase may require some minor adjustments allowing the white 1/4" tubing to fit into the pump properly.
5. **Vesta, Athena, Melody and Venus Users and also Ultra Delphi (with flow control knob on tower):** Plug the pump into the electrical outlet. (A GFI safety plug should be used to protect against electrocution). **Always make sure to unplug the ionizer while cleaning.** Turn the pump on. The pump will push white vinegar through your ionizer. At first, there may be very little flow through the Flex Hose. However, as long as the slightest amount of vinegar is flowing through the Flex Hose (or undersink faucet), the vinegar will eventually dissolve the calcium that is blocking the water flow.
6. **Run and re-circulate the vinegar wash** through the ionizer multiple times. This process could take several hours. The average time for a vinegar wash is 4-6 hours (or more) depending on mineral buildup in your ionizer. In order to make this process easy, if possible, position your ionizer so that you are able to use only one bucket for the vinegar going into and coming out of the ionizer.
7. When completed, remove the pump from the vinegar. Reconnect 1/4" tubing to your ionizer and flush the ionizer with *Purified Water* for 10-20 minutes to rinse the vinegar from the unit.
8. **Install new filters.** Plug your ionizer into its power source and turn the power switch on.
9. **Delphi or Ultra Delphi (without flow control knob on tower):** Plug the pump into the electrical outlet. (A GFI safety plug should be used to protect against electrocution). **Turn on the pump and also the Delphi ionizer power switch.** Be sure to choose the *Purified Water* setting. The vinegar will begin to push through your ionizer. At first, there may be very little flow. However, as long as the slightest amount of vinegar is flowing through the faucet, the vinegar will eventually dissolve the calcium that is blocking the water flow.
10. Extreme calcium buildup causes the pH of the ionized water to drop. Once your ionizer is cleaned using this method, the pH of the ionized water will often be higher.