

Caring for Your RWU Bathroom



1 Old Ferry Road
Bristol, RI 02809
Fall 2021

Bathroom Care Components

Suggested Bathroom Cleaning Routine



Information for keeping your bathroom clean – how frequently to clean, which areas to clean, and cleaning / disinfecting product safety information

Moisture Management



Information for keeping your bathroom dry – reducing humidity, keeping surfaces dry, and keeping items dry

Concerns and Resolutions



How to resolve common concerns with bathroom cleanliness, and how to reach out to Facilities with more significant concerns

Suggested Bathroom Cleaning Routine

Why Clean Your Bathroom?

- Regular cleaning prevents **biofilm**. Biofilm is a sticky substance created by bacteria. It is usually pink, orange, grey, or brown in color. Biofilm can be hard to clean because it is sticky and usually needs to be scrubbed vigorously with a sponge.
- Regular cleaning prevents **germ spread**. Bacteria love warm, wet environments like bathrooms and regular cleaning helps remove bacteria and prevent growth and spreading.

Suggested Cleaning Frequency

We suggest fully cleaning your bathroom weekly. Your bathroom may need more frequent cleaning if:

- You notice visible dust/dirt, biofilm, or mold/mildew growth
- Someone in your residence is ill

You may wish to “spot clean” your bathroom on a more frequent basis.

Suggested Full Cleaning Routine (weekly)

- Turn on bathroom light/exhaust fan while cleaning.
- Wipe down and dry toilet lid, seat (top/bottom), bowl, handle, tank cover, and around base. A long-handled scrubber is helpful for cleaning the bowl.
- Wipe down and dry mirror, sink basin, faucet, handles, and counter top.
- Wipe down and dry shower walls, floor, head, and handle.
- Sweep or wet wipe/mop bathroom floor.
- Place fresh floor mat and/or hand towels. Wash and dry used mats and towels.
- Check shower curtain to make sure it is dry and clean. Wipe plastic liner and wash and dry cloth layer (if two layer).
- Wait approximately 15 minutes before turning light/fan off.

Suggested Cleaning Materials

- **A two-sided sponge (soft side and “scrubby” side).** Rinse out and wring out the sponge after each use. Replace the sponge routinely.
- **A long-handled toilet cleaning “wand”**
 - **Note for wands with single-use scrubber heads** – please dispose scrubber heads in the trash. Do not try to flush these down the toilet. The toilet will clog!
- **A household-strength bathroom cleaning / disinfecting product.**



IMPORTANT CHEMICAL SAFETY NOTES:

- **Call RWU PUBLIC SAFETY in the event of a chemical spill or exposure: 401-254-3333**
- Never mix different bathroom cleaning products together, especially bleach and ammonia-based products. Mixing chemicals together can generate heat/explosions, or create dangerous gases which can cause severe respiratory damage.
- Always use products according to the manufacturer’s instructions. Only use the amount recommended by the manufacturer. Check manufacturer recommendations for ventilation and personal protective equipment.
- Always have the bathroom light and fan on while using cleaning / disinfecting products.
- Store products in closed containers under the sink or in other protected spaces.
- Never eat or drink while using cleaning / disinfecting products.
- Never consume cleaning / disinfecting products or apply to your skin, eyes, or body.
- Always wash your hands after using cleaning / disinfecting products.

Moisture Management

Wet and damp bathrooms can develop odors, mold/mildew, and bacterial growth. Moisture management is key to preventing mold, mildew, and microbial growth.

Controlling Relative Humidity (Wet Air)

- **Always use the bathroom light and exhaust fan when showering.**
- Leave the fan and light on for approximately 15 minutes after showering to allow the moist air time to ventilate.

Towels, Floor Mats, and Shower Curtains

- Launder your towels, cloth floor mats, and cloth shower curtains (two-part curtains) on a regular basis using warm or hot water and dry completely.
- Always place a towel or floor mat outside the shower to prevent puddling on the floor.
- Keep the shower curtain tight against both walls when showering to prevent puddling on the floor. Some curtains have small weights in the bottom or suction cups along the edges.
- Keep the plastic section of the shower curtain inside the tub wall or behind the shower lip to prevent puddling on the floor. Keep the cloth section of the shower curtain (if two-part) outside of the tub wall / shower lip to keep it from getting wet.
- Always hang towels flat to dry using a hook or towel bar.
- Place floor mats over the shower curtain rod or tub wall to dry after each use.
- Keep the shower curtain closed (fully extended) when not in use. Moisture will get trapped in the curtain folds.

Floors, Walls, Sinks, and Countertops

- Wipe dry after each use

Concerns & Resolutions

A note on biofilm development in tubs, sinks, and showers:

If you notice a pinkish/orange stain around your tub, shower, or sink, you may have developed the beginning of a biofilm. Biofilm is sticky but can usually be cleaned with regular household cleaning / disinfecting products and a sponge. Please apply your bathroom cleaning / disinfecting product as described in product manufacturer instructions and scrub vigorously with a sponge. Rinse with water. Moving forward, clean the tub/sink/shower more frequently (see “Suggested Bathroom Cleaning Routine” section).

Please place a work order for these types of concerns:

- Bathroom exhaust fan not working (HVAC)
- Biofilm you are not able to resolve (Custodial)
- Suspected mold/mildew growth (Custodial)
- Dripping faucet or shower head (Plumbing)
- Clogged or slow drain (Plumbing) ***please do not use chemical product to try to resolve yourself***



Please call Facilities Management for these types of emergency situations (Public Safety if after-hours):

- Shower, tub, or sink leak due to pipe or faucet component breaking (significant water flow that you cannot stop)

Facilities Management: 401-254-3136

Public Safety: 401-254-3333

Contact Us

Department of Residence Life and Housing

<https://www.rwu.edu/undergraduate/student-life/living-rwu/contact-housing>

Facilities Management Work Order System

<https://www.rwu.edu/who-we-are/administrative-offices/facilities/work-order-system>

Environmental Health and Safety via Work Order

Choose “Health/Safety” option on Facilities Work Order

References

Center for Disease Control, “Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Home: Every Day and When Someone is Sick.” <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html>

Center for Disease Control, “Preventing Waterborne Germs at Home.” <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/drinking/preventing-waterborne-germs-at-home.html>

Environmental Protection Agency, “A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture, and Your Home.” <https://www.epa.gov/mold/brief-guide-mold-moisture-and-your-home>

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