



DIY Top Tip

Descaling Taps / Shower Head

Normal tap water contains minerals that can build up in your bath or kitchen taps or shower head.

As a result, they are prone to scale up and look unpleasant. When this happens you can use a descaler to remove this scale build up and bring the shine back to the chrome or metal and restore the efficiency of your taps and shower head.

The good news is that you do not need to spend a fortune on cleaning products. There are a number of ways that you can descale your taps without having to go out and buy any cleaning chemicals:

- **Vinegar** - Simply put some vinegar over the fitting, wrap in a piece of cling film and leave for an hour or so. When the bag is removed, you will find that the lime scale will simply fall away. Also you can soak a thin cloth or a wad of kitchen roll in the vinegar, put in a plastic freezer bag and pop over the tap end and tie in place with an elastic band and leave for a couple of hours. It should all come right off with no need to scrub. Remember to wash the taps after cleaning though, as vinegar is an acid.
- **Lemon Juice** - If the scale is round the end of the taps, cut a lemon in half and stick them both on the ends of the taps for a few hours. This will remove the lime scale. Alternatively, soak some dishcloths in lemon juice and then wrap around the taps (do not do this near any gold plating) leave to work for a few hours and then rinse off.
- **Bi carbonate of soda** - Using an old toothbrush, just wet the toothbrush and then put little bit of Bi carbonate of soda on the brush and give it a good brush. This also works well between tiles.

Shower heads and hoses can also look unappealing and collect grime over the years, so remove them from their fittings and descale and clean them. Use an old toothbrush to ensure a thorough clean. Just wet the toothbrush with some lemon juice, vinegar or bi carbonate of soda and give the fitting a thorough scrub.

Where fittings are beyond cleaning, perhaps the metal has worn away, then you may want to consider replacing with fresh new fittings.