

# How to Clean and Disinfect Container-Based Handwashing Stations for Community Settings

Handwashing stations should be cleaned and disinfected regularly to reduce risk of cross contamination. During outbreaks, handwashing stations may need to be cleaned and disinfected more frequently. **Cleaning** removes germs and dirt from surfaces. Clean by scrubbing with water and soap or detergent. **Disinfecting** kills germs by applying a chemical disinfectant such as a 0.1% chlorine solution or other nationally approved disinfectant. Always clean surfaces before disinfecting. **Never mix a disinfectant (such as chlorine) with any other cleaners or disinfectants**; this can release vapors that may be very dangerous to breathe in. Always dispose of used and leftover disinfection solutions in a safe location.

## Steps for taps and catchment basins Recommended frequency: at least once a day.

### Step 1: Put on PPE



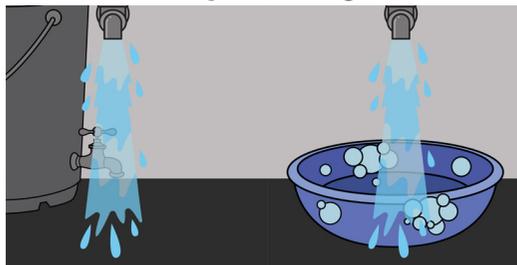
**Put on personal protective equipment (PPE):** rubber gloves, an apron, a face mask and goggles or a face shield.

### Step 2: Cleaning



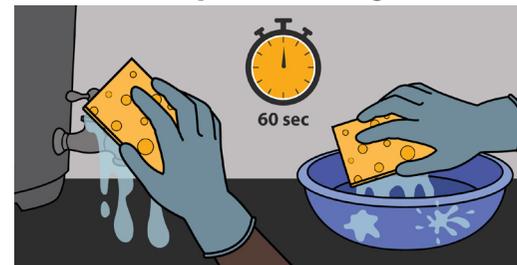
**Scrub** the tap and catchment basin with soap/detergent and water or soapy water using a clean brush, sponge, or cloth. Be sure to thoroughly scrub the tap handle. Remove all visible dirt from the inside and outside of the tap and catchment basin.

### Step 3: Cleaning



**Rinse** the inside and outside of the tap and catchment basin, using clean water. Drain the water.

### Step 4: Disinfecting



**Apply disinfectant<sup>1</sup>** to the cleaned tap and the inside and outside of the cleaned catchment basin using a clean sponge or cloth. Leave all surfaces wet with disinfectant for at least one minute. Rinse with clean water and let air dry. Remove PPE and wash hands with soap and water.

### Step 5



**Monitor** the cleanliness of the tap and basin throughout the day; repeat cleaning and disinfection if needed.

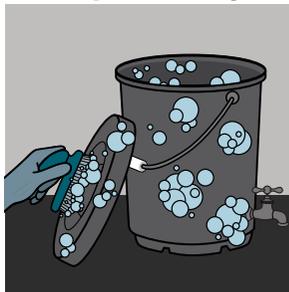
## Steps for water containers Recommended frequency: at least once a month.

### Step 1: Cleaning



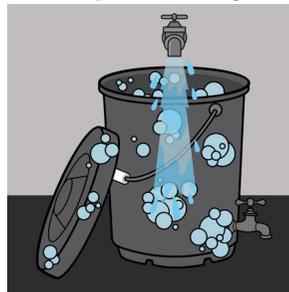
**Put on PPE:** rubber gloves, an apron, a face mask and goggles or a face shield.

### Step 2: Cleaning



**Scrub<sup>2</sup>** the water container with soap/detergent and water or soapy water using a clean brush or sponge. Remove all visible dirt from the inside and the outside of the container. Drain the soapy water through the tap.

### Step 3: Cleaning



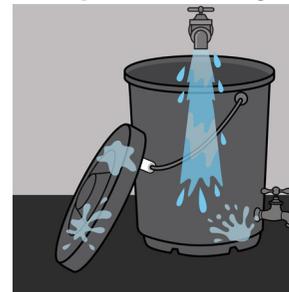
**Rinse** the inside and the outside of the water container using clean water. Drain the rinse water through the tap.

### Step 4: Disinfecting



**Apply disinfectant<sup>2</sup>** to both the inside and outside of the cleaned water container using a clean sponge or cloth. Let some disinfectant drain through the tap. Leave all surfaces wet with disinfectant for at least one minute.

### Step 5: Disinfecting



**Rinse** the water container with clean water. Drain the rinse water through the tap.

### Step 6



**Dry** the container by placing it upside-down on a clean surface. Remove PPE and wash hands with soap and water.

### Step 7



**Fill** the container with clean water. Monitor the cleanliness of the water container throughout the month; repeat cleaning and disinfection if needed.

<sup>1</sup>Rinse chlorine solution off of metal surfaces with clean water after 1 minute as chlorine may corrode the metal. Chlorine disinfectant can be sprayed on small surfaces if done outdoors

<sup>2</sup>For large containers, a clean, long-handled brush or mop may be needed to scrub the interior with soap and apply disinfectant. For containers with narrow openings, soapy water (during cleaning) and disinfectant (during disinfection) can be poured in and shaken vigorously.