

Cleaning and Maintenance of Your CPAP Equipment

DAILY ROUTINE

- If you have used tap water in your humidifier, tip out water from the chamber and wash out with warm soapy water and allow to air dry. Ensure that the base of the chamber is dry before replacing it in the humidifier unit. If you have used distilled water, remember to check the water level each day and top it up before turning machine on – and wash the chamber with warm soapy water once a week.
- 2. Take off the silicon cushion or pillows from your mask and wash in warm soapy water and rinse well. Shake off any excess water and allow to air dry. Alternatively, use CPAP Wipes® for added convenience and ease.
- 3. If your mask has forehead pads or a grey foam cushion wipe these with a light damp cloth.

WEEKLY ROUTINE

- Disassemble your mask completely and fill a bowl or sink with warm soapy water and give everything a thorough clean. Rinse in clean water and leave to air dry on a towel. This includes the Headgear.
- 2. Dust and wipe over your CPAP pump with a light damp cloth.
- 3. Wash the chamber with warm soapy water and allow to dry before refilling.
- 4. Wash tubing in warm soapy water. Rinse with clean water and hang it up to air dry inside. This is easiest done in the shower. DO NOT LEAVE IT IN THE SUN.

MONTHLY ROUTINE

- 1. Check your tubing for any holes or signs of wear.
- Check the filter in the CPAP pump. Some filters are washable, while others are not. Please check with your CPAP Consultant if you are unsure.

- If your device uses a washable filter, it should be rinsed under running water once a month and allowed to air dry. The filter should generally be replaced every 3–6 months.
- Ultrafine filters are not designed to be washed and should be replaced every month.
- 3. Fill the humidifier chamber with a solution of 1 part white vinegar to 5 parts water, or use a Steradent Denture cleaning tablet. Block any holes and give it a shake. Leave to stand for a maximum of 10 mins. Tip out, rinse with clean water and leave to air dry.

What is the best sort of soap to use?

You just need to use a MILD simple soap which does not have any fragrances, oils or moisturisers added to it. We recommend Purdoux®, a CPAP soap specifically made for this purpose. It is suitable for all CPAP masks and tubing.

What is the best sort of water to use in my humidifier chamber?

Distilled water is the recommended and best sort of water to use and is important if you have a humidifier that has a disposable chamber with an aluminium base. Using distilled water will mean the humidifier chamber will generally last longer and be easier to maintain, as the base will not react with the mineral content of tap or bottled water and deteriorate faster. When using distilled water you do not need to empty it every day; simply just top up the chamber as needed and empty and clean as per the weekly instructions above.

If your humidifier has a stainless steel base then it is possible to use filtered or boiled tap water. Boil the water first and pour into another jug to cool. Do not put hot or boiling water into to the water chamber directly from the kettle – use only room temperature water cooled in the jug. Then empty and clean as per the DAILY instructions above.

Sleep apnoea pumps, masks and accessories

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