



Hard water and limescale

Limescale is a mixture of calcium and magnesium compounds and are naturally occurring in some parts of the country. The white chalky deposits left by this 'hard water' can reduce the life of ceramic valve and mark the tap and sink.

Water with limescale content when dry will have a white chalky appearance and will generally gather around the diffuser, base of the spout and body of the tap.

A simple remedy to remove limescale marks and deposits is to dilute white vinegar with water; using a soft cloth soak the effected areas then rub them with the cloth. The longer limescale has been allowed to collect the more time this will take; an old toothbrush may be helpful for tight areas. Don't scrape the limescale off with a sharp object as the will scratch or damage the finish on the tap.

Two possible solutions might be a water softener or electrolytic inhibitor, Alternatively you might consider choosing one of our stainless steel taps, these will withstand more 'vigorous' cleaning.

Water softeners add salt to the water, which effectively softens the water and is installed to cover the whole house. Note this water is not considered to be drinkable due to its taste and high sodium content, drinking water should be from an unsoftened source. If you have a water softener our aquifier 3 way taps are an ideal solution and will remove the need for a separate drinking water tap.

Electrolytic or magnetic conditioners change the charge in the water to prevent the limescale collecting on pipes & heating elements. They do not change the water chemically so are safe to use on drinking water supplies.

The map below gives a general summary of hard water areas in England:

