

How to Keep Your Water Tanks Clean

As livestock owners, we all struggle to keep your water troughs clean. Here are a few tips and tricks to help you!

Goldfish: The University of Minnesota did a study to see how goldfish helped to keep algae down in water troughs. There's also information on using bleach and scrubbing.

<https://extension.umn.edu/horse-care-and-management/cleaning-animal-water-tanks>

Goldfish can reduce the amount of buildup and algae in the tanks, but worked much better in metal tanks. Side note; they will also help keep mosquito larvae from becoming adults! **The article suggests: 1 goldfish / 20 gallons of water.**

Bleach: Also covered in the U of M study, does work, but can decrease the water intake by your horses and livestock until they get used to the taste. This only works for the first hour (when you have to keep your horses off) and needs to be re-applied every week. It does effectively work to keep algae down.

Recommended to use at the rate of 1 3/4 teaspoons / 50 gallons of water.

Barley straw: 'Stock Tank Secret' and other brands are inexpensive and do work. They cost about \$5 and can work for a few months. You can also get a whole bale and be set for years! Available at tractor supply and most farm and feed stores.

Airmax Stock tank defense: Uses beneficial bacteria that is safe for all stock and fish to essentially breakdown the material and algae in stock tanks. According to the site; **6 tabs will keep 150 gallons clean for up to 3 months!** <https://www.amazon.com/Airmax-Stock-Tank-Defense-Tablets>

Fish or Pool Net: A little maintenance goes a long way! A daily or every couple day scoop with a sturdy aquarium or pool net to remove the debris from the bottom of the tanks can extend the time in between cleanings. https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08CY1Z81L/ref=cm_sw_em_r_mt_dp_WET66ACR2EXF3MXVJVBP?_encoding=UTF8&psc=1

Small trough with automatic float: (This is what I use.) I have a 30 gallon plastic tank and a 'little giant' stock tank float to keep the tank full. I use this to avoid dumping and scrubbing a huge tank. Another bonus: you can't leave the hose on and forget it!

Hay Chix® Net-Puff: There's nothing like some good 'ol elbow grease and a Hay Chix® Net-Puff. The Net-Puff works great for any stubborn, hard to spray off grime that won't let go of your tank. I typically scrub my tanks at the beginning of every new season. <https://haychix.com/collections/prime-products/products/hay-chix-net-puff-net-scrubr?variant=8707118759990>