

Coloured Accessory, Tapware & Shower: Care Guide

Best Cleaning Methods

Task	Method
Daily upkeep	Wipe dry with a soft microfiber cloth after each use to remove water spots, fingerprints, and residue.
Routine clean	Warm water + a small amount of pH-neutral soap on a soft cloth; rinse and dry thoroughly.
Limescale removal	Use a non-acidic descaler only — avoid vinegar and citrus-based cleaners on coloured finishes.
Stubborn marks	A soft, damp microfiber cloth with plain warm water first; only use a mild soap if needed, applied gently.
Drying	Always finish with a dry microfiber cloth to prevent spotting and residue build-up, particularly on matte finishes.

Avoid: vinegar, bleach, ammonia, abrasive pads/powders, metal polish, and any acidic bathroom cleaners — these are common causes of premature fading and peeling on coloured tapware.

Most coloured tapware finishes are applied using **PVD (Physical Vapour Deposition)** coating — an extremely thin layer of colour bonded to the base metal. It looks stunning but is more sensitive to chemicals and abrasion than standard chrome, so care routines need to be adjusted.

Why Colour can Fade or Peel

- 1. Harsh or Acidic Cleaners** PVD finishes are far more reactive to chemicals than chrome. Bleach, ammonia, and acidic cleaners (including vinegar and limescale removers) can strip or discolour the coating — this is a key difference from chrome tapware, where vinegar is normally safe.
- 2. Abrasive Cleaning** Scourers, steel wool, and abrasive powders wear straight through the thin coating layer, exposing the base metal (often brass) underneath and causing visible patchiness or peeling.
- 3. Calcium & Mineral Build-Up** Hard water still leaves limescale deposits on coloured finishes, especially matte ones where the textured surface traps mineral residue more easily than polished chrome.
- 4. Fingerprints, Oils & Soap Residue** Matte and Brushed finishes show fingerprints, hand soap, and oil residue more readily than chrome, and if left to build up, this can dull or stain the coating over time.
- 5. Coastal or Salt Air Exposure** Chlorides accelerate corrosion under the coating, leading to bubbling or lifting at the edges over time.

Prevention Tips

- Dry tapware after every use — this is the single biggest factor in keeping coloured finishes looking new.
- Never use generic chrome or metal cleaning products — they're often too harsh for PVD coatings.
- In hard water areas, wipe down more frequently rather than relying on descaling products.