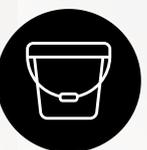


THE COMPLETE GUIDE TO SAFE AND EFFECTIVE RADIATOR CLEANING

Radiators are an essential part of any home's heating system, and proper maintenance is key to ensuring they work efficiently, last longer, and maintain a clean indoor environment. This guide walks you through everything you need to know about cleaning your radiators, from why it matters to how to do it correctly and safely.





WHY CLEAN RADIATORS?

Cleaning radiators is about more than just aesthetics - it's essential for performance, safety, and air quality. Dust and debris can accumulate on and inside radiators over time, acting as an insulating barrier that reduces heat output. This makes your heating system work harder, increasing energy bills and placing unnecessary strain on your boiler or electric system.

Radiators can harbour allergens like dust mites, pet dander, and mould spores, especially in homes with poor ventilation. A clean radiator promotes better indoor air quality, reduces allergy risks, and extends the lifespan of your heating system.

✘ WHAT NOT TO USE WHEN CLEANING RADIATORS?

Using the wrong cleaning products or tools on your radiator can do more than dull its appearance - it can damage the finish, reduce heat efficiency, and even cause premature corrosion. Harsh chemicals or abrasive materials may strip protective coatings or react with metal surfaces, weakening the radiator over time.

To preserve both its look and performance, always use non-corrosive cleaners and soft tools designed specifically for radiators. Avoid the following:

- **Bleach or harsh chemicals:** Can corrode metal surfaces and damage finishes, especially chrome or painted RAL radiators.
- **Abrasive pads or steel wool:** These can scratch the surface, especially on delicate finishes like chrome or powder-coated models.
- **High-pressure water jets or steam cleaners:** These may force moisture into electrical components (in electric radiators) or into joints and valves.
- **Oil-based cleaners or polish:** These leave residues that attract dust and may cause discolouration or fire hazards.

Always choose radiator-safe cleaning methods and tools for both efficiency and safety.

✘ WHAT NOT TO USE WHEN CLEANING RADIATORS?

Using abrasive, bleaching, or aggressive cleaning products on your radiator or towel rail can cause serious damage, including tarnishing, discoloration, peeling, staining, and rusting.

This misuse will void your warranty. To ensure product longevity, satisfaction, and efficiency, it is essential to follow Reina's official cleaning guidelines.



The images above show issues such as rusting, peeling, discoloration, and tarnishing, all resulting from improper cleaning of radiators and towel rails.

These examples highlight the critical importance of following the correct cleaning guidelines to maintain your product's warranty, efficiency, and ensure lasting warmth in your home.



TOOLS RECOMMENDED FOR CLEANING RADIATORS

There are things we recommend to ensure the safest way to clean heating systems. Here's a list of tools and supplies that are gentle on your radiator's surface while helping maintain its efficiency and appearance:

- **Microfibre cloths or sponges** – Non-abrasive and effective at trapping dust.
- **Radiator brush or flexible duster** – Designed to fit behind and inside the radiator's fins.
- **Vacuum cleaner with brush or crevice tool** – For dust removal from hard-to-reach areas.
- **Bucket of warm, soapy water** – Mild detergent is safe for painted or metal surfaces.
- **Rubber gloves** – Protect your hands from dust and dirt.
- **Old towel or sheet** – To protect flooring or catch falling debris.
- **Screwdriver** – For removing the top grill (if applicable).



RECOMMENDED CLEANING METHOD

Cleaning your radiator regularly not only keeps it looking tidy but also helps it run more efficiently by allowing heat to circulate freely. Built-up dust and grime can act as insulation, reducing heat output and potentially leading to long-term issues.

Here's a general, safe, and effective method for cleaning a standard home radiator:

Step-by-Step:

Turn off the radiator and let it cool completely to avoid burns.

Place a towel underneath to catch dust and water.

Vacuum the exterior using a soft brush attachment.

Use a radiator brush or long flexible duster to push dust through the back and bottom.

Wipe down all external surfaces with a microfibre cloth dampened with warm, soapy water.

Dry the radiator thoroughly with a dry cloth to prevent rust.

Inspect for any signs of rust or damage and treat accordingly.



HOW TO CLEAN A CHROME RADIATOR

Chrome radiators have a polished, reflective finish that can easily show water spots, fingerprints, and may corrode if not cleaned properly. Use soft cloths and non-corrosive cleaners to maintain their shine and prevent damage.

Cleaning Steps:

Turn off and cool down the radiator.

Use a soft, dry microfiber cloth to dust the surface.

Clean with a cloth dampened in warm, soapy water.

Avoid abrasive sponges or acid-based cleaners.

Rinse with a clean damp cloth.

Buff with a dry cloth to avoid water spots.

Optional: Use chrome polish sparingly to maintain shine.





HOW TO CLEAN AN ELECTRIC RADIATOR

Electric radiators contain internal heating elements and sensitive electronics that must be completely protected from moisture. It's crucial to avoid getting any water or damp materials near ventilation openings, control panels, or connection joints.

Never place damp clothes directly on the unit or allow moisture to seep into any part of the casing, as this can lead to serious damage or even pose a safety hazard.

Always follow the cleaning guidelines and ensure the radiator is completely dry before turning it back on.

How to Clean Safely:

Unplug or switch off the radiator at the mains.

Wait for it to cool completely.

Use a dry microfiber cloth to dust the exterior.

Use a vacuum cleaner to remove dust from vents.

If needed, wipe with a lightly dampened cloth - never allow water into openings.

Avoid cleaning sprays or direct moisture exposure.

Dry thoroughly before turning the radiator back on.





HOW TO CLEAN BEHIND A RADIATOR

Why is it important?

Dust trapped behind radiators can restrict airflow and reduce the efficiency of heat dispersion, making your heating system work harder to warm the room.

Over time, this build-up not only lowers energy efficiency but also contributes to poor indoor air quality by circulating allergens such as dust mites and pet dander throughout the home.

Steps:

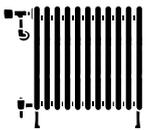
Place a towel underneath the radiator.

Use a radiator brush or long vacuum attachment to reach behind.

Push dust downward or to one side for collection.

Wipe the wall behind with a damp cloth if accessible.

Repeat monthly to prevent build-up.



HOW TO CLEAN THE INSIDE OF A RADIATOR

Why clean inside?

Over time, sludge, rust, and scale can build up inside water-filled radiators, reducing heating efficiency and causing cold spots.

Professional Internal Cleaning (Power Flushing):

Performed by a qualified heating engineer.

Involves flushing radiators and pipes with high-pressure water and chemicals.

Essential every 5–10 years or when signs of inefficiency occur (e.g., cold spots, gurgling noises).

Manual Method (Bleeding and Draining):

Homeowners can bleed radiators to release air but should consult a professional before attempting to drain and flush internally.



PREVENTATIVE MEASURES FOR RADIATOR LONGEVITY

Regularly dust and clean external surfaces.

Bleed radiators annually to remove trapped air.

Have system water tested and treated to prevent internal corrosion.

Avoid placing damp clothes or objects directly on radiators.

Use corrosion inhibitors in water-based systems.



TIPS FOR MAINTAINING A CLEAN RADIATOR

Clean dust from behind and around radiators at least once a month.

Wipe down visible surfaces weekly during heating seasons.

Inspect for paint chips, rust, or leaks regularly.

Schedule a system check-up every 1–2 years for water-based systems.

Keep the area around radiators free from clutter to improve airflow.

Regular radiator cleaning is a simple yet essential part of home maintenance that supports energy efficiency, indoor air quality, and the longevity of your heating system.

By following safe, effective cleaning methods and preventative measures, you can ensure your radiators continue to perform at their best all year round.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

Q: How often should I clean my radiator?

A: Dust exterior surfaces weekly and deep clean seasonally (every 3–6 months).

Q: How do I know if my radiator needs cleaning?

A: Look for cold spots, reduced heat output, visible dust buildup, or increased energy bills.

Q: What happens if I don't clean my radiator?

A: It can lead to reduced efficiency, higher energy use, trapped allergens, and internal corrosion.

Q: Do radiators need to be cleaned inside?

A: Yes, over time sludge and rust accumulate inside wet radiators, which requires professional flushing to maintain performance.

Q: Can I use polish or wax on radiators?

A: Only use polishes specifically designed for metal or chrome surfaces and avoid anything flammable.

Q: Is cleaning a radiator dangerous?

A: Not if done correctly. Always turn off and cool radiators first, and never allow moisture near electrical parts.

Q: Can I use bleach or bathroom cleaners on my radiator or towel rail?

A: No, avoid bleach and harsh cleaners. They can damage the finish, cause rusting or peeling, and void your warranty.

Q: Why does my chrome towel rail look dull or discoloured?

A: This is often due to harsh cleaning products or limescale build-up. Use a soft cloth and chrome-safe cleaner to restore shine.

Q: How do I prevent rust on my towel rail or radiator?

A: Regularly dry off water or condensation and clean gently using non-abrasive cloths and approved cleaning products.

Q: What's the best way to clean between radiator fins or panels?

A: Use a radiator brush or compressed air to reach dust between fins or panels without scratching the surface.