

SANITIZING YOUR MOBILE FOOD UNIT'S FRESH WATER SYSTEM



Your water system requires ongoing care and preventative maintenance to ensure that each component remains clean and functioning so the entire system can deliver a consistent flow of fresh and safe water.

5-304.15 Water Tank Cleaning

(A) The potable water tanks of a mobile food unit shall be designed to be accessible and translucent so that the cleanliness can be determined through a visual inspection. Mobile food units licensed prior to February 1, 2020 do not have to meet this requirement.

(B) The potable and waste water tanks must be cleaned at least every six months or as recommended by the manufacturer.

Note: Always check the manufacturer's specifications or instructions for specific guidance on sanitizing your freshwater system, otherwise consider disinfecting the freshwater system as follows:

1. Use one of the following methods to determine the amount of common household bleach needed to sanitize the tank. (Follow any safety precautions printed on the label of the bleach container.)
 - A. Multiply Tank Gallon Capacity by 0.13; the result is the ounces of bleach needed to sanitize the tank. For example, 60-gallon tank = 7.8 ounces of bleach
 - B. Multiply Tank Liter Capacity by 1.0; the result is the ml of bleach needed to sanitize tank. For example, 200-liter tank = 200 milliliters of bleach
2. Mix the bleach with water in a pourable container such as a gallon jug. If the tank is filled through a pressurized fitting, carefully pour the bleach into the hose before attaching the hose to the city water entry. **Warning – do not mix bleach with ammonia.**
3. Pour the bleach solution into the tank and fill the tank with fresh water.
4. Open ALL faucets (hot and cold) allowing the water to run until the odor of bleach is detected. Now the freshwater system must sit to let the disinfectant work. The freshwater system must have four (4) hours of contact time to disinfect completely. Doubling the solution concentration allows for a shorter contact time of one (1) hour.
5. When the contact time is completed, drain the tank. Refill the tank and flush the freshwater system once or twice until the bleach odor has decreased. The residual bleach odor and taste is not harmful if the correct concentration for the size of the tank was used as directed in step 1.