

Hydroponics Systems cleaning guide

Purpose

Cleaning instructions for replanting or storage of Hydroponics Systems.

Prerequisites

- Step stool or step ladder may be needed
- Bucket
- Small pitcher
- Paper towel
- Sponge or a cotton cloth
- Warm Soapy water (Dish soap)
 - *Bleach can be used at a ¼ cap full for 1-2 gallons

To clean up Plant Lab System:

1. Turn off the power and unplug the cord from the wall outlet.
2. Remove grow cups and clean up the rockwool for reuse (optional) or purchase new rockwool.
3. Wipe off top and sides of system with a moist cloth
4. Drain water from the system:
 - a. Disconnect the water pump in each tray.
 - b. Removed the tanks and tray
5. Clean the tank(s) and tray covers with warm soapy water from a bucket.
 - a. **Do not** pour soap/bleach directly into the reservoir.
 - b. Bleach can be used to clean the hydroponics system, but it is suggested to use less than a ¼ capful of bleach for every 1-2 gallons of water.
6. Remove all visible green algae that may have accumulated from the previous harvest.
7. Rinse thoroughly to remove the soap and bleach (if used).
8. Cloth dry or let air dry before adding new water.
 - a. If bleach is used, wait an additional 24 hours before filling the tank with water.
9. Once clean and dry, new water can be added. The recommendation is to let water circulate for 24 hours before adding any plant life to the hydroponics system.

To clean the Plant Producer System:

1. Turn off the power and unplug the cord from the wall outlet.
2. Remove grow cups and clean up the rockwool for reuse (optional) or purchase new rockwool.
3. Wipe off top and sides of system with a moist cloth
4. Remove the tray covers from all three shelves.
 - a. Lift the tray cover, angle it approximately 45 degrees, and slide out from one end.
5. Beginning with the top tray and working down, use a paper towel to push the water into the drain.
6. Disconnect the water float and remove the pump from the reservoir.
7. Remove the water with a pitcher or pump. Once it is to a weight that is movable by a dolly or a cart, lift the tank using proper lifting technique.
8. Clean the tank(s) and tray covers with warm soapy water from a bucket.
 - a. **Do not** pour soap/bleach directly into the reservoir.
 - b. Bleach can be used to clean the hydroponics system, but it is suggested to use less than a $\frac{1}{4}$ capful of bleach for every 1-2 gallons of water.
9. Remove all visible green algae that may have accumulated from the previous harvest.
10. Rinse thoroughly to remove the soap and bleach (if used).
11. Cloth dry or let air dry before adding new water.
 - a. If bleach is used, wait an additional 24 hours before filling the tank with water.
12. Once clean and dry, new water can be added. The recommendation is to let water circulate for 24 hours before adding any plant life to the hydroponics system.

To clean the Plant Mini System:

1. Turn off the power and unplug the cord from the wall outlet and hydroponic system.
2. Remove the grow mat and dispose of it.
3. Take the system to a sink, remove the microgreen tray, and dump the water out of the tray and water tank.
4. Clean the tank(s) and tray covers with warm soapy water from a bucket. Do not pour soap/bleach directly into the reservoir. Bleach can be used to clean the hydroponics system, but it is advisable to use less than a $\frac{1}{4}$ capful of bleach for every 1-2 gallons of water. If bleach is used, wait an additional 24 hours before filling the tank with water.
5. Rinse thoroughly to remove the soap and bleach (if used).
6. Remove all visible green algae that may have accumulated from the previous harvest.
7. Remove the pump by pulling the tab and lifting the pump. Clean any roots that may be in the intake screen and then reinstall the pump.
8. Use a dry cloth or let it air dry before adding new water.
9. Once clean and dry, new water can be added. The recommendation is to let water sit/circulate for 24 hours before adding any plant life to the hydroponics system.

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