

TROUBLESHOOTING DOCUMENT

DISPOSITION OF PROBLEM

Black streaks in the toilet bowl that keep appearing.
Brown, Orange, or green mold / stains that appears in the bowl.

CAUSES OF PROBLEM

Mold and mildew are both a type of fungus that thrive in dark, damp areas, like the underside of the edge of your toilet bowl where the water flows. These are types of spores that can be potentially dangerous if inhaled. The rings can appear black in color, though they can also appear brown, orange or green as well. Mold should be removed immediately upon discovery to prevent it from spreading.

A type of bacteria that grows in damp and dark areas, like toilet bowls is *Serratia marcescens*. It can leave a pink colored ring in your toilet, as well as your sinks and tubs if left unchecked. The bacteria are considered harmful to humans, and have been known to cause wound infections, urinary tract infections, and pneumonia. The bacteria also have antibiotic resistant properties that can make treatment of an infection difficult. Bacteria should be removed immediately upon discovery to prevent any potential harm.

Hard water contains tiny minerals that can collect in areas with a heavy flow. These minerals appear as black, gray, or brown lines and rings in your toilet bowl, creating water lines where the flow is strongest. If you have issues with hard water in your home, this is probably one of the culprits. While not an immediate health hazard, it is best to remove mineral deposits sooner than later to prevent a larger buildup from occurring.



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REMEDIES

Usually, a standard cleaning of your toilet will remove most buildup. This only requires a toilet brush and a toilet cleaning solution, preferably one with bleach to kill bacteria.

If you are serious about making sure you prevent those black streaks from appearing, you may want to consider this more in-depth cleaning method.

Gather some bleach, a measuring cup, and your toilet brush.

Flush your toilet to bring in a fresh flow of water.

Pour 1 cup of bleach into the bowl.

Stir the water in the bowl with the brush and thoroughly scrub the streaks away if the stains are higher up on the bowl or in an open rimmed toilet moisten a clothe with the solution and leave it on the stains to kill all mold and bacteria.

Wait 10 minutes before flushing to allow the bleach to kill all mold and bacteria.

Flush two times in succession to remove all bleach and remainder.

This method, while more time consuming, is a guaranteed way to prevent black streaks from building up in your toilet for a while.

You can use a clip-on bowl freshener that dispenses cleaning solution with every flush and will last roughly a couple weeks to a month.

BROWN STAINING

This is a build up of minerals or can be a buildup of grime that the toilet brush is not quite reaching, there are a couple of remedies depending on how you feel about the use of chemicals.

Scalex is a home descaler that you can buy from most hardware stores that will remove the stain, pour into the bowl, leave overnight, give a quick clean with the toilet brush then flush.

The second method and a little less invasive and it uses citric acid, pour 200g or citric acid, mix in the bowl with toilet brush, leave over night and you should see a vast improvement. Repeat if necessary.

Mineral and dirt build up in the toilet bowl.



Before and after using Citric acid



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