

Brewing is 90% cleaning and 10% everything else.

COMMON CLEANERS AND SANITIZERS FOR BREWING

Key Points To Remember

- ① 1. Cleaning is *not* sanitizing
- ② 2. A dirty surface *cannot* be sanitized
- ③ 3. Let the chemicals do the work whenever possible

Cleaners



Dish Soap

- ⦿ Pros : · Readily available · Cheap
- ⦿ Cons: Must be rinsed well as it leaves a film
- ⦿ If used on fermentation & packaging equipment, it can leave a residue that will affect head retention
- ⦿ Requires scrubbing to effectively clean

Sodium Percarbonate

- ⦿ alkali- Oxi-Clean and other generics
- ⦿ Dissolved in water, it releases hydrogen peroxide and soda ash (sodium carbonate).
- ⦿ Breaks down organic solids

TSP (tri-sodium phosphate)

- ⦿ alkali

Use as you would percarbonate.

Not very environmentally friendly and expensive if you can find it...

PBW (powdered beer wash)

- ⦿ alkali

Percarbonate based with a chelating agent — attaches to organic matter and drops it from suspension

Bar Keepers Friend

- ⦿ Oxalic acid based with mild abrasive
- ⦿ Excellent for SS, glass, copper, brass
- ⦿ Repassivates Stainless Steel

BLC (beer line cleaner)

- Potassium hydroxide with a blend of surfactants and chelating agents to help the caustic loosen and suspend soils.
- Highly caustic when undiluted - you don't want it on your skin !

Sanitizers



Iodophor (iodine based)

- ⦿ Short contact time (1-2 min)
- ⦿ · No-rinse at recommended concentration
- ⦿ · Does not have the surfactant to 'cling' to the surface as Star San does
- ⦿ · Degrades after 24 hours
- ⦿ · Stains

Star-San

- Chemical composition is a typical soap (like that found in tooth paste called DDBSA - dodecylbenzyl sulfonic acid) & food grade phosphoric acid

Sani-Clean

- ⦿ Requires 2-3 minute contact time vs 30-60 seconds
- ⦿ Need to use twice as much as Star-San (2oz per 5 gal)
- ⦿ An acid sanitizer, much like Star San, but low-foaming (same manufacturer)

Ethyl Alcohol 70%(Everclear)

- Many people also use a cheap, highproof vodka, such as 50% (100 proof)
- Useful in a spray bottle for sanitizing small parts or work surfaces

Bleach (household)

- Only truly effective if 'acidified'. For 5gal, add 1 oz bleach to carboy, add 5 gal water, add 1 oz vinegar, stir - technically no rinse, but recommended to prevent off flavors.
- Can damage stainless steel.