

How to Get Rid of Urine Smells

The Problem: Urine smells that linger

Professional cleaners are sometimes confronted with persistent foul odors that are not removed during the normal cleaning process. Failure to remove bad smells after cleaning can leave facility managers dissatisfied with the performance of a cleaning crew and can create a negative public perception about the cleanliness of a facility.

In restrooms, persistent urine odors may emanate from urine that has penetrated porous grout on floors or walls, behind toilets and underneath urinals. Little or no caulking around toilets and urinals provide perfect places for urine odors to thrive. Also, look for plumbing entries into walls and other seams or crevices where urine can be protected from the cleaning process.



Outside the restroom, urine odor problems can be found on carpet, fabrics, mattresses and porous hard floors. Carpeting and mattresses present a distinct challenge because urine can penetrate deep into padding and subfloors.

The Cause: What makes urine stink

Fresh urine does not have the smell people often associate with “urine smells”. Urine can splash, or drip on surfaces outside of a urinal or toilet. Accidents in certain settings like schools, daycares, or nursing homes can leave urine on hard floors, porous floors, bedding and carpet.

As urine rests on a surface and dries out, a residue is left behind that becomes a source of food for bacteria. These bacteria collectively referred to as “odor causing bacteria” work on consuming the urine. The problem is during this consumption process new compounds are formed that include various sulfide and ammoniated chemicals which our noses perceive as bad odors.



If these odor causing bacteria manage to elude the cleaning process, the urine smell lingers.

The Solutions: Getting rid of the urine odors

On hard nonporous surfaces, urine odors can be attacked a number of different ways. If you have a persistent urine odor problem, you do need to be a detective. Chances are the urine residue and resulting bad odors are likely protected from the cleaning process. Below are some products that can help remove urine odors.

1. Bio-Enzymatic Products

Cleaning products have been developed that harness the power of bacteria to seek out and consume waste. In this case, the bacteria are specialized cultured, non-pathogenic bacteria that are much more efficient at consuming waste. Unlike odor causing bacteria, the special bacteria consume the urine residues without generating any odors. Bio-Enzymatic products don't work instantly, but can be very effective when used on a regular basis. When used correctly, bio-enzymatics work well on carpet where urine may have penetrated into the backing or subfloors.



Tri-Fecta is a bio-enzymatic cleaner containing microbes to consume urine odors. Green Seal Certified.

Bio-Power is another product containing microbes to counteract urine odors.

Neutra-Zyme is fortified with Bio-Zyme, a proprietary blend of bacterial spores and natural enzymes that provide superior cleaning power, both immediate and residual. Green Seal Certified.

Enzy-Clean is a biological and enzymatic floor degreaser in the Multi-Task concentrate system. It contains a synergistic blend of natural microorganisms that releases enzymes to consume and break down food, grease, and organic material. NSF certified

Zyme-X Zyme X is a bio-enzyme based all-purpose neutral cleaner degreaser harnessing the power of beneficial bacteria and specially cultivated enzymes.

2. Hydrogen Peroxide Based Products

Products containing hydrogen peroxide can be effective on urine odors and stains. The hydrogen peroxide helps destroy the odor causing bacteria and can also help safely bleach out discolorations on hard and soft surfaces.

Peroxi-Cide is ready to use, hospital grade disinfectant. Kills coronavirus that causes COVID-19 in 1 minute.

X-Ray is a ready to use peroxide based cleaner that helps destroy odor causing bacteria.

Double-O-Seven is a concentrated peroxide based all-purpose cleaner perfect for helping to control urine odors.

007HD Double-O-Seven heavy duty dilution in patented Multi-Task Package. Green Seal Certified.

007DC Double-O-Seven daily cleaning dilution in patented Multi-Task Package. Green Seal Certified

PP-Gone is a Peroxide Powered Cleaner that destroys urine odors and stains on hard and soft surfaces. Odors from urine residues send the wrong message to building occupants and visitors. PP-Gone works effectively on both human and animal urine odors and stains.

3. Disinfectants

Disinfectant-Cleaners are also effective at killing odor causing bacteria. Disinfectants are recommended for hard surfaces and not typically recommended for carpeting or other soft surfaces.

Microcide TB is a ready to use disinfectant cleaner.

Millennium Q is a concentrated restroom cleaner and disinfectant.

Century Q is a neutral disinfectant cleaner.

E-Fecticide disinfectant cleaner is a high performance disinfectant for use in hospitals, nursing homes, patient rooms.



What works best

In general, for carpeting where urine often has penetrated the backing and subfloor, the bio-enzymatic approach offers the most effective solution. Check out the Multi-Clean [Technical Library](#) to learn how to remove urine odors and stains from carpet.

For hard surfaces, a greener approach is to use hydrogen peroxide products. Hydrogen peroxide breaks down to oxygen and water.

When there is a desire to kill potentially harmful pathogens as well as the odor causing bacteria responsible for the urine smell, then a disinfectant is the correct approach.

