

ESPRESSO MACHINE MAINTENANCE

Keeping your machine clean will not only prolong its life, it will also help to improve the quality of the espresso that you are producing.

THE TOOLS

When cleaning your espresso machine you will require certain tools:

- Espresso head cleaning shampoo
- Coarse bristled brush
- Back-flushing cap (unperforated filter basket)
- Short blade screwdriver
- Soft bristled brush
- Ring spanner

AFTER EVERY EXTRACTION

Empty and rinse the portafilter under the flow of water from the group head before replacing it¹.

This serves three purposes:

- It keeps the portafilter clean and free from rancid oils
- It keeps the portafilter hot in preparation for the next extraction
- It ensures that the hot water in the group head is clean and fresh

Remove the filter basket from the portafilter using the short blade screwdriver² and fit the back-flushing cap³.

While the water is flowing, fit the portafilter loosely into the group head and rotate it back and forth⁴. Empty the portafilter of hot water and check for coffee grounds as you do this. Repeat until the water is clear.



BACK-FLUSHING THE GROUP HEAD

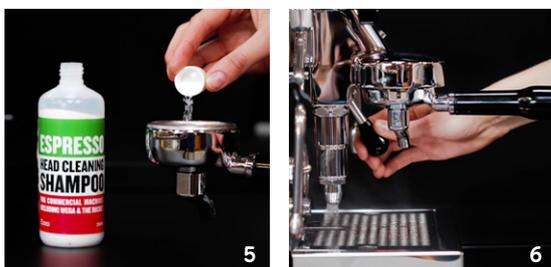
The group head should be back-flushed with espresso head cleaning shampoo to ensure it remains clean and in optimal working condition. With your Rocket, it is best to back-flush at least once a week, although this depends on how often you use it.

Once the group head has been rinsed of coffee grounds, using the process above, add half a capful of shampoo to the back-flushing cap and some boiling water to dissolve it⁵.

Engage the portafilter and activate the group head for five seconds, then turn it off⁶. While the water is flowing, fit the portafilter loosely into the group head and rotate it back and forth. Repeat this five times. Then use the coarse bristled brush to scrub inside the group head.

Lastly back-flush the group head without using shampoo to remove any residue, as detailed above.

Run a test extraction to ensure that the machine is completely free of shampoo.





CLEANING THE GROUP HEAD AND PORTAFILTER

Once a week you should give your Rocket a thorough clean. Prepare a solution using two teaspoons of shampoo dissolved in 500ml of boiling water⁷.

Remove the shower foil (the mesh filter that sits inside the group head), along with the head seal using a ring spanner⁸. Rinse the seal in warm water and put it aside. Add the shower foil to the solution⁹.

Using a short blade screwdriver, unscrew the brass spreader located inside the group head¹⁰. Add it to the solution. Remove the filter basket from the portafilter and add this to the solution along with the portafilter¹¹. Ensure that only the metal end of the portafilter is covered in the solution.

After soaking, rinse everything to remove any coffee residue and shampoo¹². Dry everything thoroughly¹³.

Wipe the group head out with a wet cloth before putting the parts back into place¹⁴.



CLEANING THE STEAM WAND

Turn the steam wand on before and after use to release condensation and milk residue. Wipe the wand after each use.

You can clean the steam wand tips by unscrewing them¹⁵ and soaking them in the solution of espresso head cleaning shampoo and hot water outlined above¹⁶. Do not soak the steam wand itself as this can cause contaminants to get into the machine's boiler.



GRINDER

Before cleaning the grinder, remove the beans from the bean hopper (receptacle) and store them in an air tight container¹⁷.

Remove the hopper and wash it with warm, soapy water to remove any coffee oil. Thoroughly rinse and dry the hopper before replacing it.

Empty the dosing chamber of any ground coffee and discard it¹⁸. Using a soft brush or a vacuum cleaner remove all grounds from the throat of the grinder and dosing chamber¹⁹.

