



How to Clean SNAP Tokens

Hard surfaces can harbor bacteria and germs. Below are some steps you can take to improve the cleanliness of your market's tokens and protect the safety of your market's customers, vendors, and staff.

1. Clean and disinfect tokens after each cycle (every time they are returned by a vendor or customer). Keep all of the tokens being returned by vendors in a separate container to be cleaned and disinfected after the market day ends.
2. Encourage customers and vendors to keep tokens in a container that can be closed or sealed, such as a plastic sandwich bag or washable container.
3. Don't expose all of your tokens when you don't need to. Most markets have more tokens than needed in a single market day. Only expose enough tokens to get you through the day, keeping the remaining tokens sealed away and easily accessible.
4. Be sure to clean and disinfect your token containers and surfaces that are used during the token process.
5. Start by testing the processes below with a single token to ensure it will not damage your tokens.

How to Clean Metal or Plastic Tokens

1. Clean using dish detergent and water. It is safe to submerge plastic and metal tokens.
2. Disinfect with diluted household bleach solutions, alcohol solutions with at least 70% alcohol, or another common EPA-registered household disinfectant.
3. Air dry tokens by laying them out on a clean surface.



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How to Clean Wooden Tokens

1. Spray or use a wet cloth to clean your tokens-never soak or immerse wooden tokens in water. Just spray, wipe with a cloth and warm water, then air dry. Wood is porous so soaking might cause them to swell and change shape.
2. Keep it natural with mild dish soap, or use other non-toxic multi-purpose cleaners, diluted with water as cleaner instructs.
3. Drying in the sun is a great way to speed up the drying process and the sun is a natural way to kill more bacteria. However strong sunlight or prolonged exposure can lead to color fade and cracking - so monitor it.

Additional Resources and Information

Old Time Wooden Nickel Company, who produces most of the wooden nickels used in the United States, did some testing on tokens and shared the following statement:

“Our tokens are a raw wood material and can warp with no guarantee they will regain their original shape; that can only be achieved if sealed with some sort of lacquer. One token was sprayed with Lysol and the other was dipped in Dawn dish soap and water in a bowl. The ink on the Lysol tokens smeared a bit. The tokens dipped in Dawn dish soap and water warped but came back, both tokens felt rough once dry.”

For more information about cleaning and sanitizing surfaces, review the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Recommendations](#).



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