

How to Fully Whiten and Hand Wash Your White Sneakers

Introduction:

When fully brand new, white sneakers are among one of the most aesthetically pleasing sneakers to look at for many people. However, they are also the biggest magnets to stains and dirt since most people will be able to easily recognize a dirty white sneaker even if its stains are minimal. As time passes, the sneakers eventually reach a point where they won't even appear to be white anymore. Even if you are new to the concept of washing shoes or are someone who doesn't really know how to clean white shoes properly, this guide will show you how to make your white sneakers look and feel brand new again.

You will need:

- A pair of white sneakers
- Toothbrush (Preferably one that is not being used)
- Dishwashing gloves (optional)
- Detergent
- Fabric Softener
- Bleach (optional)
- Small bucket or Cup
- Sink/Bathtub
- Paper Towels
- An area with exposure to wind/sunlight

Procedure:

Shoelaces: (If the white sneakers are not held together by white shoelaces or are not held by shoelaces at all, this section can be skipped)

1. Fill the small bucket or cup with a mixture of $\frac{2}{3}$ hot water and about half a cup of detergent, fabric softener, and bleach altogether. Using the toothbrush, stir the solution until bubbles start to form on the top layer.
2. Remove the white shoelaces from the sneakers. If present, wear the dishwashing gloves and then rinse the shoelaces by the sink or bathtub under warm water for about 2 minutes to remove the loose dirt currently lying on the topmost layer of the shoelaces.
3. Untangle the shoe laces and submerge them under the detergent solution. In a clockwise and counterclockwise motion, stir the shoelaces in the solution for 5 minutes. Alternate between the motions once every 30 seconds.

4. After stirring, leave the shoe laces in the solution for 10 to 12 minutes. Once the required time elapses, remove the shoe laces from the solution and rinse them under warm water.
5. Untangle and place the shoelaces flat on top of a sheet of paper towel, and place it by an area exposed to wind and sunlight (Can either be next to a window or outside your building)
6. Leave the shoe laces for about 4 hours to leave them to dry.

Sneakers:

1. If you have already washed your shoe laces, you may skip to the next step. Otherwise, fill the small bucket or cup with a mixture of 2/3 hot water and about half a cup of detergent and fabric softener altogether (If there are no other colors present on the sneakers besides white, you may use a small amount of bleach). Using the toothbrush, stir the solution until bubbles start to form on the top layer.
2. Grab one sneaker and rinse it by the sink or bathtub under warm water for a few seconds. Hold the sneaker by putting your non-dominant hand inside the shoes and use your dominant hand to hold the toothbrush.
3. With one side of the sneaker at a time, dip the toothbrush under the soap solution and repeatedly brush the side of the sneaker using circular strokes. Make sure to cover all the edges and corners of the sneaker.
4. Rinse the side of the sneaker under warm water for a few seconds, and then repeat the previous step once more. Rinse again after finishing.
5. Repeat steps 3 and 4 for the other 3 sides and the tongue of the sneaker (the center part of the shoes where the shoelaces are placed on top of) in order to wash every area of the sneaker.
6. After fully rinsing the sneakers, remove 1 to 2 sheets of paper towel and place the sneaker face down on top of the paper towel to allow the excess water to drain out from the inside of the sneaker.
7. After around 3 to 5 minutes, place the sneaker face up on top of the paper towel and place it by an area exposed to wind and sunlight (Can either be next to a window or outside your building)
8. Leave the sneaker with the paper towel for about 48 or more hours to leave them to dry.
9. Repeat steps 2 to 9 for the other sneaker within the pair.

Post-Wash:

1. Once the pair of white sneakers and shoe laces are fully dry, take them out of the drying area.
2. Reattach the shoe laces for each sneaker based on your preference, and then store the sneakers on your shoe rack to prepare them for your next use.