

Troubleshooting & FAQs

Q: Why is the caulking still black after I scrub it?

A: That's because the stains are from microbial growth deep *inside* the caulk, not just on the surface. Surface cleaning can't remove them. Your goal here is prevention, not removal.

Q: What do I do about stained caulk or damaged surfaces?

A: Report pre-existing damage or deep stains that cannot be cleaned to your barracks management or through the proper facilities maintenance channels.

Q: Why is the fan not enough? Can't I just leave it on?

A: Fans may be insufficient on their own, but more importantly, they cannot remove the water droplets left on surfaces. Since this water is the primary cause of buildup, the steps in this guide are a critical part of prevention

ATTENTION

If you discover drywall that is soft or spongy, report it to your barracks manager immediately. It is a sign of serious water damage and needs to be addressed by maintenance.



MCAS Cherry Point Barracks Shower & Bathroom Care Guide

Essential Procedures for Controlling
Moisture and Maintaining Bathroom
Cleanliness

Weekly Deep Clean & Ongoing Moisture Control

CONTINUOUS MOISTURE CONTROL:

1. **Run Dehumidifier:** Run the dehumidifier for at least 1-2 hours every single time the shower is used. This applies whether it's the first shower of the day or the last. Empty the tank daily.
2. **Maximize Airflow:** When not in use, prop the bathroom door open to allow air to circulate.
3. **Dry Towels Elsewhere:** Do NOT hang wet towels in the bathroom.

WEEKLY DEEP CLEAN:

1. **Spray & Soak:** Once a week, spray all surfaces with an approved solution and let it sit for 30 minutes to kill spores. Choose one:
 - DIY: 50/50 mix of White Vinegar & Water.
 - DIY: 3% Hydrogen Peroxide.
 - Store-Bought: A bleach-free bathroom cleaner with Hydrogen Peroxide as the active ingredient (e.g., Lysol with Hydrogen Peroxide).
2. Scrub Gently with a non-abrasive brush.
3. Rinse and dry all surfaces.

Daily Post-Shower Routine

This 3-minute routine is the most critical part of bathroom maintenance.

Step 1: SQUEEGEE

Immediately wipe down all shower walls and surfaces to physically remove water.

Step 2: WIPE DOWN

Use a towel to wipe condensation from wall tile, grout, and especially the **ceiling**.

Step 3: SPRAY

Lightly mist all surfaces with an appropriate daily shower spray. **Do not rinse.**

DIY Daily Spray Recipe

In a spray bottle, mix equal parts White Vinegar and Water, plus one teaspoon of Liquid Dish Soap.

Why Bleach is NOT Recommended:

1. **Ineffective on Porous Surfaces:** Microbial growth develops deep roots (hyphae) in grout and drywall. Bleach only treats the surface; its water content seeps in and can actually fuel further growth.
2. **Damages Materials:** As a corrosive oxidizer, bleach degrades fiberglass, grout, and caulk. On **painted drywall**, it can cause permanent fading, "chalking" of the finish, and may soften the underlying gypsum board.
3. **False Sense of Security:** Bleach strips the color from microorganisms, making the surface *look* clean while the underlying microbial colony remains active.
4. **Health Hazards:** Bleach emits harsh fumes that irritate the lungs and skin, especially in the poorly ventilated spaces