



CLEANING SOLUTIONS FOR IBC TOTES

What's the best way to clean an IBC tote?

The best way to clean an IBC tote depends on several factors:

- The number of IBCs being cleaned per week
- The nature of the residues being cleaned
- The nature of the run-off
- The level of cleaning required

So, what are the main methods of cleaning IBCs and what are the pros and cons?

MANUAL CLEANING

Filling up the IBC with water or using a pressure washer to scrub the IBC by hand.

Pros

- No specialist equipment required
- Cheap CapEx cost

Cons

- Most expensive when all costs are factored in
- Labour intensive
- Least reliable

Use this method when:

- There are fewer than 10 IBCs to clean per week
- The run-off is easy to handle and easily disposed of on site
- The residues are easy to clean
- The cleaning is considered non-critical

FULLY AUTOMATIC IBC CLEANING STATIONS

Fully automatic IBC cleaning stations with single or multiple bay units.





Pros

- Efficient – Rapidly cleans the toughest of residues
- Safe – Drains away run-off and residues

Cons

- Expensive
- Takes up a lot of factory space

Use this method when:

- There are over 50 IBCs to clean per week
- The run-off is difficult to handle and needs disposing of safely
- The residues are tough to clean
- The cleaning is considered critical

IBC CLEANING SYSTEMS (such as the SNP IBC Cleaning Station)

Semi-automatic cleaning systems that consist of a pump, hosing, and a rotary cleaning head that can be inserted into the IBC on a special lance that normally fits to the lid of the IBC.

Pros

- Cheaper than full automated IBC cleaning stations
- Safe
- Effective
- Reliable for regular cleaning

Cons

- Not as neat as IBC cleaning stations in dealing with run-off

Use this method when:

- There are between 5 and 50 IBCs to clean per week
- The residues are tough to clean
- The cleaning is considered critical
- The run-off is relatively easy to handle





IBC CONTRACT CLEANING

Pros

- Removes tough and harmful residues
- Flexible with varied cleaning amounts

Cons

- More expensive than in-house cleaning

Use this method when:

- There's 50+ IBCs to be cleaned per week
- The residues are tough to clean
- The cleaning is considered critical
- The run-off is relatively easy to handle

Next article: What are the fluid requirements for an automated IBC cleaning kit?

