

The Simple Cleaning Station

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DO NOT THROW AWAY THOSE MOLDY GOURDS!

CLEAN YOUR GOURDS THE EASY WAY!

Most people do not have large cleaning facilities available for cleaning those moldy gourds from their garden, so here is a more simple solution.

1. USE PROPER PROTECTIVE AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT FOR THE JOB!
2. GRAB A 5 GAL. BUCKET AND FILL IT WITH WARM WATER
3. USE A BIT OF LIQUID DISH SOAP IN THE WATER
4. USE A BIT OF LIQUID FABRIC SOFTENER IN THE WATER
5. USE WEIGHTS TO ASSURE THE GOURD GETS A GOOD SOAKING
6. LEAVE IN THE WATER FOR 2 HOURS MINIMUM
7. USE A STAINLESS STEEL SCRUBBER TO REMOVE THE MOLD

(Available at Dollar General stores, 2 ea for approx. \$1.50)

8. CLEAN AROUND THE STEM AND THE BELLY BUTTON WITH A KNIFE
9. CLEAN THE STEM ITSELF IF GOING INTO COMPETITION WITH YOUR GOURD

(You might try a small wire brush and gently clean all around the stem the full length.)

What the stainless scrubber will not take off just about will not come off. If white mold is present it will almost always have to be scrapped off with a knife or sanded off.

The molds leave discolored spots on the gourd, which is natural. These spots become a part of the shell and you should not be able to feel them. If you can feel them more cleaning is needed.

Many artists use the spots to their advantage, often incorporating them into a design when crafting the gourds.