

Long Term Storage Instructions for your LifeStraw (personal, Go, Universal, Play & Flex)

Follow these steps if you have already used the LifeStraw product and you plan to store your LifeStraw for greater than 1 month without use. Problems with clogging? See page 2.

1. **Remove Carbon Filter.** Remove the carbon filter, let dry 30 minutes and place in a sealed zip bag (if your LifeStraw Go is the single-stage version – e.g. it does not have a carbon filter, or you are storing your LifeStraw personal – you can skip this step).
2. **Disinfect.** For LifeStraw Go, Universal, Flex and Play, mix ¼ teaspoon of household bleach with 2 cups of clean water and pour solution into bottle/flask, closing the lid when filled. Let stand for 5 minutes. Empty the bottle or container and rinse with new water, shaking the filter.

For LifeStraw personal, close the bottom cap, open the top cap and pour solution in through the mouthpiece, closing top cap afterward. Let stand for 5 minutes. Open both caps and rinse under clean tap water for 1 minute.

3. **Immerse in Salt Solution.** Fill the bottle/flask half-way with water, add 1 teaspoon of salt and dissolve. Place the filter - lid with mouthpiece closed or cap on and the microfilter membrane still attached - back onto the bottle and tighten.

For your LifeStraw personal, dissolve 1 teaspoon of salt in 2 cups of clean water, close the bottom cap, and pour solution into the top cap until full. Pour the remaining into a bottle or a Ziploc bag. Store the LifeStraw in the salt solution with both caps open.

4. **Store.** Store bottle or bag that contains the salt water in a cool dry place. If applicable, store carbon filter sealed in Ziploc bag separately in a cool, dry place.
5. **Resume Use.** To use your LifeStraw[®] again, reinsert the carbon filter if applicable. Discard the salt solution and fill your bottle with regular source water. For your LifeStraw personal, blow any remaining solution out of the filter before filling with regular source water. Spit out first few sips as they may still taste salty. If storing longer than three months, replace the carbon filter prior to reuse.

Note: We recommend storing the bottle with a salt/saline solution because it helps to prevent any mold or algae from growing during long-term storage while also keeping the membrane microfilter wet which ensures a good flow rate when resuming use. When the membrane becomes completely dried out, it can be difficult to get the product flowing again.

If you have additional questions about storage and maintenance for your LifeStraw, please email us at info@lifestraw.com

Unclogging Instructions

Follow these steps if you are experiencing clogging before the end of your product's filtration cycle. This can occur due to improper backwashing, cleaning and storage, trapped air bubbles, etc.

One of the best ways to prevent clogging, is to follow our long-term storage instructions. This prevents the membranes of our filters from drying out and/or becoming blocked over longer periods of non-use.

If your filters are stored for long periods of time and appear to be blocked when trying to resume use, what you likely need to do is re-activate the hydrophilic properties of the membrane again or essentially lubricate the membrane so it easily pulls water through. The best way to do this? Coconut milk! (We know, weird, but it works!) See the instructions below for unclogging using coconut milk:

1. **Remove Carbon Filter.** Remove the carbon filter if you are using a LifeStraw Go 2-Stage, Play, Flex, or Universal. If your LifeStraw does not have a carbon filter – you can skip this step.
2. **Hydrate.** Fill a clean jar with 4 tablespoons of coconut milk and 2 cups of water, mixing well. Remove the membrane microfilter from cap and immerse the filter in coconut solution. Let stand for 1 hour. If you are using a LifeStraw Personal, immerse the straw into the solution.
3. **Rinse.** Rinse the hydrated membrane microfilter under tap water for 1 minute, making sure to rinse from both sides. Clean the mouthpiece and all surfaces after rinsing.
4. **Resume Use.** To use your LifeStraw[®] again, reinsert the carbon filter. Skip this step if you are using a LifeStraw Personal. Then begin drinking water. Note: the first few sips might be tougher but it should ease up quickly.

Putting it away for a while after? Remember to check out our long-term storage instructions.

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