

Quart LAL Mattresses – How to Clean Bladders and Hoses

Hose Connectors

- Add white vinegar (1/3 vinegar to 2/3 water) and warm water to a bowl. You will need a small nylon brush, the sort or brush used for cleaning bottles, but small enough to fit in the connector tubes.
- Soak the brush and use it to clean the connectors. Don't worry about getting the solution into the tubing. Since it has white vinegar, it will eventually evaporate.

Mattress Bladders

- Mix Virox (or equivalent) with warm water and pour a tiny amount into each bladder, then shake the bladders to spread the liquid around inside.
- Place three bladders in a mesh bag, you will need six mesh bags. Place the mesh bags in the washer. You can add all six to a single wash. If the washer has an agitator you must use the mesh bags. If your washer does not have an agitator, the bladders will not need to be in mesh bags.
- Add ¼ cup of white vinegar to the wash load with a small amount of laundry detergent. Do not add too much detergent or you will never get all the soap out of the bladder.
- Once the bladders have been washed, remove them from the mesh bag and remove the excess water from each bladder. This part is tricky as you must get the water out through the connection opening. Hold the bladders so the connector is towards the bottom and shake back and forth until you get out as much water as possible. It will be best to do this outside as it can be messy and is the most time-consuming part of the process.
- Repeat washing and emptying of the bladders three times. Do not use detergent for these additional washes, only water.
- A quick way to dry the bladders is to reconnect them to the side rail and turn the pump on its highest setting, not autofirm as that will kick out every half hour. It will take about 2 days to dry depending on how humid the room is and how much excess water is left in the bladder.