



Tap water is typically odorless or may have a slightly chlorinous scent. Sometimes customers may notice the smell of rotten eggs or sewage when using the sink. A perceived odor of rotten eggs or sewage in the water is usually caused by sewer gases forming in the household drain. Sewer gases are formed by bacteria which live on food, soap, hair, and other organic matter in the drain. These gases are heavier than air and remain in the drain until the water is turned on. As the water runs down the drain, the gases are expelled into the atmosphere around the sink. It is natural to associate these odors with the water because they are observed only when the water is flowing. However, the odor is not in the water. The water is actually pushing the odor out of the drain.

To eliminate this odor, the bacteria in the drain has to be eliminated through disinfection. To disinfect the drain, please follow these seven steps:

Step	Description
1	Run cold water for <u>15 seconds</u> into the drain.
2	Prepare a 20% solution of liquid chlorine bleach by adding 1 cup of laundry bleach to 4 cups of water. Caution: Bleach may cause eye damage, skin irritation, and may damage clothing.
3	Pour the 20% liquid chlorine bleach mixture down the drain. Pour the bleach slowly around the edges of the drain so that it runs down the sides of the drain.
4	If the odor is coming from a sink with a garbage disposal, turn the disposal on for a few seconds while the bleach is being poured. This will disperse the bleach around the inside of the disposal. Caution: Take care to avoid splashing while the disposal is on.
5	Allow the bleach to remain undisturbed in the drain for about <u>10 minutes</u> . Caution: Prolonged contact with metals may cause pitting and/or discoloration.
6	After 10 minutes, run hot water into the drain for two minutes to flush out the bleach.
7	Repeat steps 1 through 6 if the odor returns.

Caution: Do not mix any drain cleaners or detergents with bleach. Certain combinations can create toxic fumes.