
A Simple Cleaning Method

American Gourd Society

*Do Not Throw Away Those Moldy Gourds!
Clean Your Gourds the Easy Way!*

You do not need a fancy cleaning station. All you need is

5 Gal. (or larger) Bucket

Warm Water

Liquid Dish Soap

Liquid Fabric Softener

Old towel(s)

Use Weights to keep the gourds submerged while soaking

Stainless steel or copper scrubber

Wire brush, paring knife, sand paper

Steps

1. Combine warm water, a little dish soap and fabric softener in your bucket
2. Submerge the gourds, cover with wet towel and place heavy weights on top (example: place a lid from a plastic storage tote over the towel-covered gourd and place the weights on top of the lid)
3. Leave in the water for about 1- 2 hours, pouring the water on the towels to keep them wet
4. Scrub the gourd with the copper or stainless steel scrubbie
5. Clean around the stem and blossom ends with a paring knife
6. Clean the full length of the stem (You might try a small wire brush)
7. Rinse and towel dry
8. Set aside and allow to dry. Inspect for skin that didn't get scrubbed off.

What the stainless scrubber will not take off will come off with a little further effort. In most cases it can be scrapped off with a knife or sanded off (when wet or dry)

Another idea:

- Set them in the lawn when you have the sprinkler running instead of in a bucket