

## **Day Pack Bladder Maintenance**

**QUESTION:** How do I remove the black stuff in the hose?

**ANSWER:** From Grand Canyon veteran Thom Janssen

I can share a few tips with you. If it is too bad a replacement hose is the answer.

- Fill your bladder with at least 4 cups of solution: 3 parts water 1 part lemon juice.
- Blow the bladder up like a balloon. Agitate it to wet the inside completely.
- Squeeze the bite tip or remove, then push on the bladder to force the solution out the hose.
- Once the hose is filled with the lemon solution, close the tip.
- Let sit for 15 minutes or so.

(They sell cleaning kits with special brushes. The long thin brush is the only way to clean the inside of the hose. You have to take either the tip off one end or both.)

[Camelback Kit](#)   [Osprey Kit](#)   [Osprey Cleaning Video](#)

- Agitate vigorously the bladder then squeeze and drain out the hose. Fill with water, agitate, drain and repeat.
- Use the balloon method to clear most liquid from the hose and bladder.
- Lay a folded sheet of paper towel inside the bladder. Rotate the bladder to soak up as much water as possible. Remove moist paper towel. Repeat.
- Finish with a dry paper towel ball. Place inside the bladder such that it holds the sides from touching. Leave open to air dry. Also leave the tip off the hose to air dry. Put the tip inside the bladder so you don't lose it or forget where you put it.

NOTE: This works well even with electrolyte solution and not plain water. You just need to rinse more. You must remove all the electrolyte solution since it will feed the *black stuff* and it will grow faster.

I hope this helps, but it works better as a prevention so buying a new hose may be your best bet at this moment. The above will help keep it from growing black stuff in the future. Also you can use vinegar instead of lemon juice – I like the taste of lemon better.

**TIP 2:** Carry a spare hose and tip for your bladder.