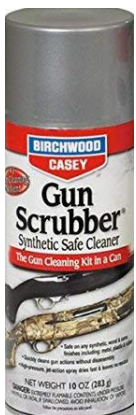


Pistol Cleaning

A gun that is regularly fired accumulates dirt, powder residue and other foreign matter, all of which can make it more prone to stoppage, wear and corrosion. Even a firearm that is left untouched in a shelf, in a drawer, safe, holster, etc. can accumulate sufficient dust and dirt to affect functioning. Reasonable gun owners understand that removing this fouling is critical to ensure reliability and readiness. A firearm that is properly maintained at regular intervals, including regular cleaning, inspection and lubrication, as well as a periodic armorer checkup, will function more reliably, shoot more accurately and last longer than one whose care is neglected.

Every gun owner should have a gun cleaning kit consisting of:

- BoreSnake (caliber specific)
- Gun solvent (synthetic safe)
- Gun oil
- Soft cloth (micro fiber best)
- Small brush for cleaning crevices
- Hand and eye protection



Make certain your cleaning area has adequate ventilation. Do not eat, drink or put anything near your mouth while cleaning and maintaining your pistol. Your first step, while keeping the gun pointed in a safe direction is to ensure that the firearm is unloaded. **There may never be any ammunition in the cleaning area!**

Take your gun solvent and saturate the BoreSnake from the end of the string through the copper brushes. Also spray solvent down the barrel (always from the breach) and in any moving parts. When cleaning a revolver, spray each chamber in the cylinder. Next apply the gun lubricant to the rear tail of the BoreSnake. Now drop the brass weighted cord through the bore. Pull slowly, being careful not to snag on edges or gun parts. Repeat as needed until the bore is clean. Normally this will take one or two passes.

The first part of the snake (thick padded area) cleans the bore, the brass brushes scrub the bore, the next portion swabs the bore, the rear quarter where the gun lube is applied lubricates the bore. All the cleaning is done in one pass!

When this is done, clean all other parts and lube all metal parts with a light film of oil. Spartan Accuracy Oil is one of the best lubricants for your firearm. This oil has a proprietary formula that uses heat activation on molecular particles to penetrate and fill asperities in the metal substrate. This reduces friction, thereby increasing accuracy of your firearm.

Always refer to your owner's manual for disassembly and reassembly of your firearm. Detailed instructions on proper lubrication will be found there. In general, lubricate revolvers in the areas of the crane, ejector rod and cylinder latch and around the sides of the hammer and trigger. With the stocks removed, you may also apply oil into action areas to smooth the trigger pull.

Semi-automatic pistols should be lubricated on the slide and frame rails, at the muzzle and in the barrel locking area. Also apply a small amount of oil to the sides of the trigger and hammer where they enter the frame, and drip a little oil into action areas. Also put a light film of oil on the exterior surface of all metal parts.

Use only lubricants designed expressly for use in firearms. Over time, improper lubricants may become gummy, impairing proper gun functioning, or may be too thin or runny to provide lasting protection. Also, firearms that are used in climates that are extremely hot, cold, wet or dusty often have very special lubrication needs, as do firearms that will be stored for extended periods.

It is also important to avoid over-lubricating your pistol, or leaving oil in certain areas. Excess lubricant can penetrate stocks and cause deterioration, as well as attracting dirt and other foreign material. Spartan Accuracy Oil is made specifically for firearms and dries to a smooth finish which will not attract dirt.

Maintenance of ammunition magazines is critical for proper functioning. Most magazines are designed to be disassembled; instructions should be in your owner's manual. Once the magazine is disassembled, remove dirt and powder residue from the inside of the magazine body using a brush and cloth.

In most cases, the owner's manual will present only basic disassembly for general cleaning and maintenance; further gun disassembly by the owner is discouraged. Dirt and powder residue collects in interior action areas that can be accessed only by complete disassembly. A partial cleaning of the inaccessible areas may be achieved by flushing the action with gun cleaner or a solvent that leaves no residue. The solvent is sprayed into the action in such a way as to allow the excess to drain freely, dissolving and flushing away loosened dirt and residue. Seek the assistance of a certified armorer or gunsmith if unsure of procedures.

In addition to the normal maintenance you can perform, it is important to periodically have an armorer or gunsmith completely disassemble, clean, inspect and lubricate your firearm. This is also an opportunity for an experienced eye to look for wear, breakage or other conditions that may affect your gun's ability to function properly.

The frequency of this kind of check-up depends upon your shooting habits. In general, if you practice regularly with your firearm, an annual check-up is recommended.

Useful Links

www.ModernSpartanSystems.com – Accuracy Oil, other firearm lubricants and cleaners

www.Hoppes.com – BoreSnakes, solvents, other cleaning items

www.BirchwoodCasey.com – GunScrubber solvent, other cleaning items

