

# HANDGUN CLEANING TIPS

(Refer to Your Owner's Manual for Complete Instructions)

## OVERVIEW – Clean every 50-100 rounds

- ✓ **Review Owner's Manual**<sup>1</sup>
- ✓ **Ensure gun is unloaded**
- ✓ **Protect hand stocks (grips)**
- ✓ **Apply solvent to dissolve contaminants**
- ✓ **Scrub & brush clean**
- ✓ **Remove solvents & contaminants**
- ✓ **Re-apply lubricant (oil or grease) to reduce friction**
- ✓ **Restore protection against corrosion (oil)**
- ✓ **Wash Hands**



1. **Remove ammunition from the cleaning area. Ensure that the gun is unloaded.** Check a second time. Dry fire your handgun *while pointing it in a safe direction*.
2. Remove or protect wooden, ivory or custom hand stocks (grips). Remove using the proper size screw driver that fills the screw slot, or wrap stocks with a rag or painter's tape (easy release) to avoid soaking the wood, ivory etc. with solvent or oil.
3. For semi-autos, field strip or separate the slide and barrel group from the frame, using the recommended method in your owner's manual.
4. Consider wearing rubber gloves. Attach either a bore mop or patch-holder and patch to your cleaning rod. Liberally apply CLP<sup>2</sup> or bore cleaner to the mop/patch and swab the bore (inside barrel) and let soak for about thirty minutes to dissolve copper, lead and powder residue. (High deposits of any of these may require a special-purpose cleaner.)
5. While the bore soaks, spray the gun with CLP or your preferred cleaning product. (To avoid unwanted chemical reactions, consider purchasing cleaning solvents and lubricants of the same brand.) Using either a toothbrush or nylon pistol cleaning brush, scrub moving contact surfaces (rails & slide), extractor claw, recoil spring (semi-autos), breech block (where cartridge case backs into when fired) and the areas named in your owner's manual. Protect/remove hand stocks as appropriate.
6. While bore continues to soak, spray the semi-auto action<sup>3</sup> or revolver breech area & cylinder with Powder Blast/Gun Scrubber or similar pressurized solvent to remove oil, grime and powder residue.



**CAUTION!** Hold over a trash can and **protect or close your eyes while spraying**.



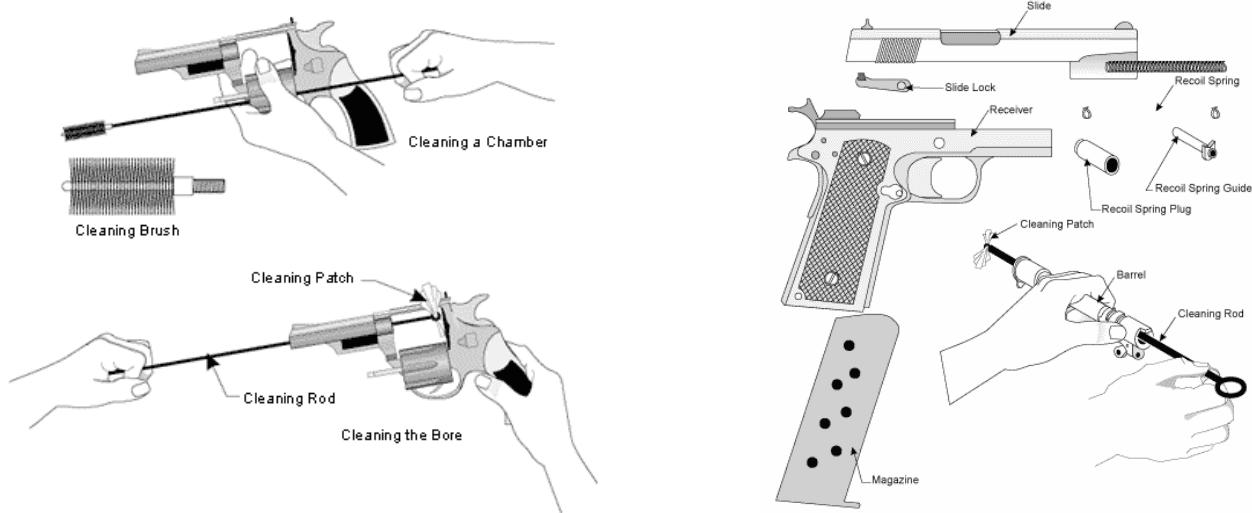
7. While bore soaks, remove excess solvent from semi-auto action and external surfaces with cleaning patch, rag, and Q-tips, and then reapply CLP or oil to guard against oxidation.
8. Per your user manual instructions, once the bore has soaked for about thirty minutes, attach a bronze or nylon bore brush to the cleaning rod and run the brush back and forth through the bore (inside barrel) 20-30 times – or according to owner's manual. Use a muzzle guard for revolvers to avoid damaging the muzzle with the cleaning rod. Similarly, it is highly recommended that a carbon or nylon-covered cleaning rod be used instead of stainless steel, aluminum or brass to protect the accuracy of the bore. For semi-automatics, scrub the barrel from the breach (end of barrel closest to shooter when firing) to avoid damage to the muzzle. Next, replace bore brush with a JAG and push clean patches through bore until they exit unsoiled. Use the correct size patch (caliber) to ensure a tight fit through the barrel. Use two patches if necessary.
9. Lubricate the handgun according to the owner's manual.
  - a. For semi-automatics: Put three or four drops of oil on the barrel hood that is exposed in the ejection port. Then lock the slide open. Put a ring of oil on the barrel 1/4 inch back of the muzzle. This will keep the barrel/bushing area lubricated. If possible, put a couple of drops of oil in the open ejection port where the slide and frame touch on both sides. Turn the pistol upside down. The rear of the slide is now sticking back of the frame. Place two or three drops of oil in each slide rail groove and one or two drops on the center rail that cocks the hammer. Now close the slide and hand cycle the pistol six times with the muzzle pointed in a safe direction. This will spread the oil. Wipe off any excess that might run out at the rear of the slide/frame area. Repeat every 50-100 rounds. (Courtesy of *Cylinder & Slide*)
  - b. For revolvers: The cylinder turns on a shaft, called the crane or yoke. You can put one or two drops of oil at the point that the cylinder and yoke join. Tip the revolver muzzle up as you apply the oil and rotate the cylinder after each drop. If you continue to hold the muzzle up and turn the cylinder for a few moments after you apply the oil, it will run to the rear of the moving surfaces.

Next, you can apply one drop to the hand that rolls the cylinder, while keeping the muzzle pointed upwards. Immediately after applying the oil, cycle the action several times. Open the cylinder again and put one drop of oil on the rear of the cylinder in the center where it turns against the frame. On S&W revolvers, there is an ejector rod lock up in the front of the ejector rod. Place one drop of oil into the end of the ejector rod. Once again, tipping the muzzle upwards and turning the cylinder will help spread the oil to the moving surfaces. With the cylinder closed, cock the hammer. Put two drops of oil along each side of the hammer. Now cycle the action several times. Turn the pistol upside down. Put two drops of oil on each side of the trigger. Now cycle the revolver several times while it is upside down to spread the oil. This is about as good a job of lubrication that can be done if you do not remove the revolver side plate. If you do not remove the side plate at all, I recommend that you have the pistol completely disassembled at least annually by a



pistolsmith and thoroughly cleaned and lubricated. If you carry the revolver daily, the complete disassembly should be done semi-annually at a minimum. (Courtesy of *Cylinder & Slide*).

10. If cleaning for prolonged storage, in addition to the above steps, repeat this process for the bore and cylinder (bore cleaner, brush & patches) twice more (weekly) to remove powder residue that will leach from metal pores.
11. Clean magazines 2-3 times annually according to your owner's manual.



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#### Notes:

1. Owner's manual - Online, downloadable owner's manuals.

<http://www.stevespages.com/page7b.htm>  
<http://www.gunshowonthenet.com/page20.html>

2. CLP: Clean, Lubricate and Protect. Several brands market CLP-like products, including *Breakfree*. Beware! This market has its share of "snake oil" products. When in doubt, ask your gunsmith for a recommendation.

3. *Action* - Generally the parts connecting the trigger to the hammer that load, unload and fire the gun. A dirty action can lead to a malfunction.

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Cleaning your gun regularly familiarizes you with its operation, preserves the value of your gun, maintains its accuracy, and ensures that the gun will work when needed.

Be safe,

**Chip Lohman**  
Owner, Safepistol.com

