

Butter-nut Sport Shop

Gun Cleaning Tips

Step One

Preparation

Good preparation is the first step to successful gun cleaning. Having enough room to work and everything you need within reach is crucial. Below are a few things to have ready when you want to clean your gun.

Work Area

Obviously, you need an area to perform your cleaning. Somewhere with good light and ventilation are best. If you can't clean outside during the day, a garage or mudroom may work well. (Avoid kitchens, living rooms, and dining rooms as the chemicals you will be using can be harmful.)

Protective Surface

Whether you invest in cleaning mats or are simply using a towel or blanket, ensure that you have some material protecting your gun from the hard surface you'll be working on.

Cleaning Kits

At the Butter-nut Sport Shop we're partial to all-in-one cleaning kits to ensure that no matter how large your collection becomes, you'll always be ready to clean any firearm you purchase.

At a minimum you should have the following:

- Cleaning rod
- Bore brush (caliber specific)
- Cleaning swabs or mops
- Cleaning jags
- Utility brush (toothbrushes work great)
- Cleaning solution
- Lubrication

Now that you have your location picked out and your tools ready to go, we can begin. Before you attempt to take your gun apart always consult the manual for your specific firearm. Once you thoroughly understand how to appropriately strip down your gun, move on to Step Two.

Step Two

Before doing anything else, you're going to unload your firearm by removing the magazine/emptying the magazine/magazine tube, opening the action, and visually and tactilely checking that there is no ammunition in the chamber. Remove any live ammunition from your cleaning area and proceed.

Disassembly

Only disassemble your firearm to a point that you are comfortable with and how your manual explains to do so. There is no need to remove every screw, pin, and spring to routinely clean your firearm. However, there are times when your firearm should be completely disassembled

and cleaned, and that should only be done by a gunsmith.

Cleaning

These steps are interchangeable but performing them in the same manner every time you clean ensures that you won't miss a step.

Step 1: Barrel

Attach your cleaning rod and bore brush of the appropriate caliber for the firearm you're cleaning. Apply a few drops of cleaning solution inside the barrel and insert the brush. For barrels with rifling, you will feel the brush twist as it cleans the lands and grooves. Never impede the twisting as it will result in damage to your brush. Push the rod all the way through your barrel and pull it back. Repeat this step several times until you're satisfied that the residue has been removed. Your barrel will not look clean at this point.

Remove the brush from your cleaning rod and attach a jag of the appropriate size. Place a clean patch onto the jig and run it through the barrel. This will soak up any residual cleaning solution and extract the brushed residue out of the barrel. Repeat this step 3-5 times until your barrel looks clean and shiny.

Remove the jag from your cleaning rod and attach a mop of the appropriate size. Place several drops of lubricating solution to the mop or in the barrel and run the mop through the barrel. This ensures that all parts of the barrel are being lubricated.

Step 2: Action

Take your utility brush and apply a few drops of cleaning solution. Brush away any residue from the action, especially near the firing pin/striker. Also brush away any residue near the breech of the barrel.

Step 3: Miscellaneous

Magazines should be cleaned and lubricated occasionally. Inspect your firearm to locate any other areas that have built up residue from firing and clean them.

Step Three

Reassembly/Lubrication

You should apply lubricating solution to any area that moves/rubs against another area. This should be done while you're reassembling your firearm to ensure that all moving parts are lubricated.

Step Four

Once your firearm is completely reassembled, work the action, and ensure that everything functions appropriately. Be sure no ammunition has been loaded into the firearm before pulling the trigger. The Butter-nut Sport Shop never recommends dry-firing any gun. You should purchase snap-caps/dummy rounds of the appropriate caliber for all of your firearms for testing.

Finishing Touches

Place a small amount of lubricating solution on a rag and wipe down the exterior of the firearm. This will protect the finish and prevent rust. It also keeps wood stocks from drying and cracking. Be sure not to soak wood parts in oil/lubricant. Wipe away excess lubricant immediately.

Cleaning your firearm is an incredibly necessary part of gun ownership. A gun is only a tool and can only serve you well if properly maintained and cared for.

Contact Us

Never hesitate to reach out to us at the Butter-nut Sport Shop with any questions relating to cleaning and care.

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