

Cleaning the Rifle

By

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Cleaning Instructions: All rifles should be cleaned and lightly oiled after each day of use.

Step 1. The bolt should be removed, all bullet wax and carbon build-up should be wiped clean, and the exterior of the bolt lightly oiled then wiped dry. The oil should not penetrate the firing pin area as this can freeze and cause sluggish lock time. The shell extractors should be especially cleaned of wax buildup. A used toothbrush works great for this. A dentist's tool also is handy.

Step 2. Clean the area around the chamber where the bolt face recesses. Wax and carbon build up here can prevent the bolt from closing.

Step 3. The bore guide should be inserted in place of the bolt. This keeps the Teflon sides of the rod from being peeled by the sharp chamber edges and prevents excessive bore cleaner and oil from being drawn into the trigger mechanism. If you don't have a bore guide GET ONE IMMEDIATELY.

Step 4. The brass bore brush, dipped in bore cleaner should be pushed through the bore ONLY FROM REAR TO FRONT. [An exception can be made to clear the bore during the race.] The brush is unscrewed at the muzzle and re-attached to the rod in the rear. Do not draw the brush back through the bore as this brings impurities back against the crown and bore. The crown is the beveled end of the barrel. That is the most critical area of the barrel for accuracy. Never dent it. The brush should be passed through the bore two or three times. Do not scrub the bore. Unburned powder and carbon will all be cleaned out with only a few passes of the brush.

Step 5. Replace the brush with the patch tip and run clean patches through the bore until all trace of lead fouling is gone. Use a new patch each time. Do not oil the bore unless the rifle is to be put away for some time. Then store with muzzle down to prevent oil from running into the trigger.

Upon next use BE SURE TO REMOVE THE OIL WITH A DRY PATCH BEFORE FIRING AGAIN.

Step 6. Wipe the exterior of the metal parts with a lightly oiled patch. Do not wipe the exterior with WD40 as ultra-violet light re-action may result in the bluing being destroyed.

Step 7. Keep the trigger mechanism clean and dry. Only use compressed air to clean the trigger. Be sure that any moisture in the air is dried from the trigger. Do not oil the trigger. Oils can collect grit and dust which can greatly affect the consistency of trigger performance. Cold will then alter the clean crispness required for consistency of the trigger.

Step 8. Sights should only be dry-brushed clean. Any oil left on the sights can spatter into the eyes.

The rifle should be transported in a lockable, rigid, foam padded container. If traveling by air, the container latches should also be taped shut. At home the rifle should always be removed from the foam padded container and be stored in a very dry locked container with no moisture carrying foam near the rifle.

Richard Domey, Ph.D. is a former National Guard biathlete and 16 year member of the U.S. All Guard International Shooting Team. He was a member of seven U.S. National Championship winning rifle teams and five national record setting teams. He coached biathlon at the XV Winter Olympics and was an active shooting coach at the U.S. Olympic Training Center, Colorado Springs. His book, "Mental Training for Shooting Success" is sold worldwide.