

You don't need an expansive cleaning kit to maintain your firearm, however you will probably find yourself trying a multitude of items until you get the things you like best.



Below are the basic things found in any cleaning kit:

Cleaning Solvent

(Hoppes, Tetra, CLP, etc.)

Lubricant or Gun Oil

(Hoppes, M-Pro, etc.)

A Bore Brush

A Patch Jig and Patches

Cleaning Rod

Nylon Cleaning Brush

(Toothbrush works well)

Flashlight or Borelight

Cotton Swabs

Microfiber Cloth for Polishing

Cleaning your firearm is a big part of being a responsible gun owner. This primer is a basic explanation, and by no means an end-all for what it means to fully clean a firearm.



**BEGINNERS GUIDE TO
PISTOL CLEANING**



*Intro Guide to
Basic Pistol Maintenance*



"Beginners Cleaning Guide"
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**SOCIALIST RIFLE
ASSOCIATION**

Always make sure your firearm is unloaded and safe to handle before proceeding to clean!

It isn't always necessary to take apart your firearm for a quick barrel swab after a day at the range, but it is always a good idea to give it a decent cleaning with extended use or long-term storage.

Break the firearm down into its major components as per your manual. This will generally be:

Slide

Sometimes the barrel will be held within the slide, and sometime it will be pinned to the frame

Frame

Generally no need to disassemble farther than removing the slide.

Magazine

Always be sure to do the cleaning in a relatively ventilated area. The cleaning solvents do give off fumes. Be sure to lay down a cleaning mat or towel as some of the solvents can damage your table. A small bowl should be handy to keep your pins/springs/misc.

Always try to clean from breech (loading end) to muzzle end. This helps keep fouling from gumming up your internals, unless you plan on removing the barrel to clean. Pick a cleaning jig and rod that is the same caliber as your firearm.

Brushes come in nylon, steel and brass. Steel is abrasive, and should be used with care as it will damage the rifling in the barrel. Nylon is the most flexible, but will need the pass-through process repeated several extra times to work well. Brass is the in-between, but some cleaners can ruin brass brushes.

1. Start with a wet cleaning patch. You can use both sides of the patch to get the process started. It may take several patches. Make sure the barrel is good and coated. Let it sit for a few minutes to soak the fouling.
2. Next use a bronze brush jig to remove a good portion of the fouling. Wet the brush with solvent before inserting into the barrel. Make sure to clear the entire barrel with the jig, do not reverse it halfway. Make a couple passes, cleaning and wetting the jig each time.
3. Go back through with another wet cleaning cloth to get the remainder, and allow to sit for a few minutes.
4. Once it has sat for a few more minutes, run a dry patch through and it should be sufficiently cleaned.
5. Once you have sufficiently cleaned out the barrel, you can apply some oil to the moving parts and the area where the slide meets the frame to preserve the contact points.
6. Reassemble the firearm. An old rag, t-shirt strips, etc. will be more than sufficient for wiping down the rest of the firearm externally.
7. If on hand, use something like a RemOil wipe on the outside of the reassembled
8. firearm to add a fine layer of oil to protect it from moisture and rust during storage.