

# Barrel Break-In and Cleaning Instructions

We've compiled information from several barrel makers on the best barrel break-in and cleaning for your rifle barrel. Using these break-in procedures and cleaning instructions, you can ensure that your barrel will clean easily in the future and that you will achieve maximum accuracy.

**COPPER FOULING:** Caused by bullet jacket material left in the barrel.

**POWDER FOULING:** Caused by burned and unburned powder left in the barrel.

During the first few rounds, a lot of copper fouling will be left in the barrel. It is important to remove this fouling, completely, after each shot, to help prevent a build-up later on. Powder fouling is ongoing, but is easy to remove. *Do not use moly coated bullets* during break-in procedure.

## Barrel Break-In

**Supplies needed:** plastic-coated cleaning rod or nylon coated cable, cotton patches, bronze bore brush, nylon bore brush, action rod guide, rifle barrel solvent: non-copper removing (we recommend Montana Extreme), copper removal solvent (we recommend Montana Extreme or Sweets 7.62 Bore Cleaning Solvent), bore conditioner, cleaner/lubricant/preservative.

For break-in, the barrel should be cleaned after every shot for the first 10-12 rounds or until copper fouling stops. Before shooting your rifle for the first time, the barrel needs to be cleaned to remove the preservative.

1. Push a cotton patch that is wet with solvent (non-copper removing solvent) through the barrel. This will remove much of the powder fouling and wet the inside of the barrel with solvent.
2. Wet a bronze brush with solvent and stroke the barrel 5-10 times.
3. Push another wet cotton patch through the barrel.
4. Push dry patch through the barrel
5. Saturate a patch with a copper removing solvent and thoroughly soak the barrel. Keep using copper soaked patches until there is no more blue on the patches (the blue is the dissolved copper). The copper fouling will be heavy for a few rounds and then taper off quickly in one or two shots. Do not let copper solvent stand in barrel more than 20 minutes.
6. Push a dry patch through the barrel.
7. Push a patch with clp (cleaner/lubricant/preservative) through the barrel.
8. Repeat steps 1-8 until copper fouling has diminished.
9. Shoot five-shot groups, clean after each group (steps 1-8).
10. After 25-30 rounds, clean at a normal interval of 10-25 rounds. Your barrel is now broken-in.

## Normal Barrel Cleaning

1. For normal cleaning, after break-in and following 10-25 shots, use steps 1-4 and step 7.
2. A good rule of thumb on step 2 is to stroke the barrel for every shot that is fired.

# Periodic Copper Foul Barrel Cleaning

Every 200 rounds or so, use a strong copper removing solvent to check for copper fouling. Use steps 1-8 of the barrel break-in procedure for the copper fouling procedure.

## Abrasive Barrel Cleaners

We do not recommend the use of abrasive cleaners when cleaning your barrel for normal cleaning and copper foul cleaning. You can use it every after 1000-2000 rounds to remove carbon build-up in the throat area of the rifle.

1. Wrap a cotton patch around a worn out brush and liberally apply the abrasive cleaner to the patch.
2. Short stroke the abrasive for six inches or so in the throat area and one or two passes through the barrel.
3. Do not clean barrel more than one or two minutes.
4. Push a dry patch through the barrel.
5. Push a patch with clp (cleaner/lubricant/preservative) through the barrel.

## Moly or Coated Bullets

Shooters using moly or coated bullets need to clean their barrels every 25 rounds. Use the normal barrel cleaning procedure.

## Cleaning Equipment Tips

Using the correct equipment to clean your barrel is important. You can get a action bore guide from Sinclair (<http://www.sinclairintl.com>), or Dewey ([www.deweyrods.com](http://www.deweyrods.com)). An action rod guide will keep your rod straight in the barrel and keeps your rifle from getting uneven wear and damaging the rifling.

Use a quality coated cleaning rod as well. The coating on the rod will prevent damages to your barrel. There are nylon coated cables that work very well now as well. These are available from Otis (<http://www.otisgun.com>) or Dewey. Both of these companies make a very good complete cleaning kit for your rifle at a reasonable price with the exception of a good copper foul solvent.

Do not use a stainless steel brush in your barrel at any time.

Be sure to use a preservative on your barrel when storing it. Run a dry patch through before shooting.

Store your rifle in a dry place to prevent rusting.

Do not let solvent get inside the action or any other surfaces on your rifle, as they may damage them. Do not over-lubricate freshly cleaned surfaces.



Sinclair Action Bore Guide