

**Handout for Weapon Safety and Firearm Cleaning**

**Covering the basics with the MarDet.1381’s views on:**

**Basic Weapon Safety**

**Basic Firearm Cleaning**

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**5 Easy Steps to a Clean Firearm**

Info from several sources, C.R Bones, Dr. John J. Woods, NR, USMC

### 1. Unload and Remove Bolt

Before cleaning any firearm, open the action to make sure it is unloaded, and then read the owner’s manual for specific firearm model instructions.  Remove clips or magazines.  Take out the bolt in a rifle, or lock open the action of a semi-auto rifle, shotgun, or pistol.  Brush with solvent, clean, dry off, and lightly lube the bolt.  Make sure you brush the extractor and/or ejector as well.

### 2. Swab Bore

Set the cleaned bolt aside and working from the breech or chamber end only run a cleaning rod with attached bronze brush soaked in gun solvent down the barrel and out the muzzle.  Repeat this same action if the barrel is particularly dirty.  Let it sit for 10-15 minutes.  This allows the solvent to dissolve and soften bullet jacket material, lead, and powder fowling.

### 3. Scrub Bore

After the solvent soak, run the solvent soaked bronze brush down the barrel again several times to loosen the gunk in the barrel.  Purists would say to unscrew the brush at the muzzle at each stroke of the cleaning rod rather than pulling it back up and out the chamber.  If you are a professional target shooter, this extra effort might make a difference, however for the average everyday deer rifle or .22 LR, this is not necessary.  You make that judgment for your firearm. Just don’t change directions in the middle of the barrel.

After ten or so runs of the brush, I do recommend next running a cloth patch down the bore to push any excess carbon out the muzzle. In this case do not pull the patch back out.  Take it off the rod, put on a clean one, and then pull the rod back out the chamber end.  Repeat again with the brush scrubbing.  As a rule of thumb, on most hunting firearms, running the brush 25 times should do the job.

### 4. Run Bore with Patches

Next run several solvent soaked patches down the barrel and out the muzzle end.  Replace each time with a clean patch, pull back up, and replace patch again. Do this until you are satisfied with the relative cleanliness of the patch. They may never come out completely white, but if they come out black, with shades of blue and green, then keep cleaning. Solvent can turn a lot of barrel fowling bluish or green.

If this continues, you may need to soak the barrel again, rest it, and then brush again. It all depends on how many rounds were shot since the last cleaning.

### 5. Apply Light Lubrication

Contrary to popular belief firearms do not perform well swimming in oil. After all the swabbing and scrubbing, the barrel just needs a light coat of rust prevention oil as does the bolt. Use a clean soft cotton cloth with oil to wipe down all the metal surfaces of the firearm.  A very little on the wood stock does not hurt it.  Don’t overdo oil.

I do this final step wearing those $1 brown cotton gloves to keep fingerprints from ending up on the metal before storage. As to storage, do not put any firearm in any kind of a sealed case, either fabric or plastic for long term.  If you do, add a packet of moisture desiccant in the case, otherwise, just prop the firearm up safely locked in a closet, safe, or secure area.

Are there other steps that could be added?  Sure.  Use a clean toothbrush to dust in the juncture of the barrel where fitted to the stock.  Brush off sights, mounts, scope metal, too.  Clean optical lenses like any high quality glass.   Brush around the trigger area.  Clean the clip or magazine and oil lightly.  Brush up into the magazine insert cavity below the action.  Brush off the butt plate that usually ends up in the dirt.

Be sure to check the firearm ever so often to make sure no rusting has slipped up on the metal surfaces.  It is also a good idea before shooting your firearm to run a dry patch down the barrel to clean out any leftover oil or dust.   If you continue to maintain your firearms after each use, they will be ready when you need them.

**Armageddon?**

If it all goes to hell, here’s how to keep your firearms running.

Some info contained is from many sources some include C.R. Bones, Joseph Von Benedikt, USMC, NRA and Handguns Magazine.

If the world is upside-down and you can’t just jot down to the store and buy cleaning gear, and you are out or unable to get to your bug out gear, what do you do? Your firearm is nasty, dirty?

Acquire these

A big Ziploc bag or something similar. (You should have a big Ziploc bag in your bug out gear. Disassemble small springs and parts from your firearm in the bag. Try getting a replacement!)

A stick, rod, old wooden spoon for example will do as a cleaning rod.

Tooth brush.

Piece of an old shirt, jeans, rag will do for patches.

Motor oil will do for lubrication.

Transmission fluid will do for bore cleaner.

Vehicles- whether running or roadside derelicts, are gold mines for survivors maintaining firearms.

Transmission fluid makes a better than none cleaner and motor oil is a lot better than animal or vegetable oil.

Auto or Revolver? Why not both?