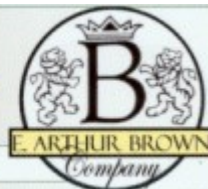


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Muzzleloader Cleaning and Seasoning Methods - Simple, easy cleaning tips that don't require a hot soapy bathtub.

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Muzzleloader Cleaning and Seasoning Methods

Frontiersmen Didn't Use Bathtubs to Clean Their Muzzleloaders In... Why Should You?

Article by Eben Brown, [For Reference Only - Use at Your Own Risk](#)

Having a few years experience in muzzleloader hunting, I've arrived at some common sense cleaning methods that have made my muzzleloader rifle far more accurate and enjoyable to shoot. Its a thoughtful, reasoned approach...

First of all, this idea that you have to soak your rifle in a tub full of hot soapy water after every shooting session is ridiculous. The original muzzleloader Frontiersmen didn't have hot tubs much less soap with them on their forages through the wilderness... Yet their rifles had to function reliably and shoot accurately... Their lives depended on it.

Second, the idea of "Seasoning" a muzzleloader barrel makes a lot of sense and perhaps explains why the original frontiersmen didn't need hot soapy tubs. The idea is that natural muzzleloader lubricants like Thompson Center Arms "Borebutter" will actually season the bore very much the same way bacon fat cooks into a cast iron frying pan... Creating a naturally protected, non-stick surface.

And finally, the common belief that you can shoot 3-5 accurate muzzleloader shots between cleanings is absurd. You can't hardly get a second and third bullet fully seated down a fouled barrel... Much less shoot with accuracy. A muzzleloader barrel simply **MUST** be swabbed (seasoned) between shots to remove hard caked fouling. But with seasoning... You can easily get 25 to 100+ accurate shots if you swab and dry patch the bore after every shot.

Modern Day Considerations - My TC Encore tends to confine fouling within the barrel and breech plug. There is no reason to submerge the entire firing mechanism in a tub of water to clean it. I swab the bore as described (above right) between shots and once more after a shooting session. I also scrub inside the rear of the breech plug with a pipe cleaner and carbon solvent to keep the flash hole clear.

Once every 25-50 shots, I'll remove and clean the breech plug, then clean the bore from the breech end with #13 Bore Cleaner, regular jag, and patch. Patch it dry, and finish by lubing the bore with a seasoning patch. Use #13 on a patch to wipe any black powder residue off your gun.

The flash pinhole in the breech plug has a wide flash chamber between it and the 209 primer that CAN get encrusted very thick and hard with carbon fouling. Neither hot water nor black powder solvent like #13 will dissolve this stuff. Soaking just the breech plug in a modern carbon solvent overnight should clear it but don't use modern petroleum solvents in your barrel... they will remove your seasoning. (Note: New breech plugs are cheap).



Our wrapped, sub caliber brush eliminates the problem of the cleaning jag getting stuck in the barrel when swabbing the bore between shots.

1. Swab bore with a "Seasoning" patch to clean.
2. Swab with a dry patch to remove excess lube.
3. Load muzzleloader powder, bullet, and prime.
4. Repeat after each shot for superb accuracy.

For a 50 caliber bore, instead of a jag I use a 45 caliber bronze cleaning brush. Wrap a TC "Seasoning" Patch around the brush and scrub it down the bore all the way to the breech plug. Seasoning patches are impregnated with borebutter that loosens the crud while seasoning the bore surface. Scrub the ignition area at the bottom especially well until you can feel that you are scrubbing smooth, bare metal. Usually its about 20 strokes. Next, wrap a DRY cleaning patch around the brush and scrub the barrel like before... about 20 strokes. This method results in a clean, consistent barrel that also loads easily and consistently. And the brush/patch combination never sticks in the barrel.

[Info/Order 207-7003 Encore Seasoning Patches \(100\)](#)
[Info/Order 207-7037 Encore Dry Cleaning Patches \(100\)](#)
[Info/Order 207-9500 Bronze 45 Caliber Ramrod Brush](#)
 (10/32 thread on this brush fits TC ramrod threads for hunting use)

Recommendations - For convenience when practice shooting many shots at a shooting range, we recommend using a separate cleaning rod and brush for swabbing with a seasoning patch between shots.

[Info/Order 715-26-22-26 Stainless Cleaning Rod](#)
[Info/Order 715-45R Bronze 8/32 Bore Brush .45 Cal](#)
 (8/32 thread on this brush fits standard gun cleaning rods)
[Info/Order 207-7763 Stainless Encore/Omega Breech Plug](#)
[Info/Order 207-9041 TC #13 Bore Cleaner 8 oz.](#)

Triple Seven having a different fouling characteristic that was said to be harder crusted. Our wrapped, sub caliber brush eliminates the problem of a patched cleaning jag

Why Patched Jags Stick - I've seen articles that talk about getting stuck in this hard crusted fouling.. about modern black powder substitutes like Pyrodex and
Note: - The 250 gr TC Shock Wave and Hornady 250 SST at 1623 fps, use ED value .0667 in the BRC software with [Hawke Ballistic Scopes](#).



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