



Cleaning a muzzleloader



Compiled by M. D. Meyer

Equipment required

- You would require the following equipment in order to clean your black powder weapon.
 - Nipple wrench
 - Cleaning agent (Butch's bore shine, Wynn's clean green)
 - Bucket with hot water
 - Boiling water
 - Pipe cleaner
 - Cotton ear buds
 - Cleaning jag for your caliber
 - Flannel cleaning patch
 - Cleaning rag
 - Non petroleum based rust preventative oil (Ballistol)
 - Nipple prick
 - Old toothbrush

Before you begin

- Make sure that the weapon is unloaded.
 - Using the ramrod, make sure that the weapon is unloaded by looking at the length of the rod protruding when fully inserted into the barrel



Loaded



Unloaded

Disassembly

- Remove the barrel from the stock. This is usually done by removing a wedge pin linking the barrel to the stock. Consult the user manual for your firearm for more information.
- Use your nipple wrench to unscrew the percussion nipple, and place the nipple into a small bowl of hot water and cleaning agent to soak. It will soften the residue left behind by the spent percussion cap.



The cleaning process

- Attach an appropriate cleaning jag to your loading rod
- Place the barrel into the bucket of water with the muzzle end pointing towards the sky, and put a flannel cleaning patch soaked with cleaning agent over the muzzle end of the barrel. Use the ramrod to ram the cloth down the barrel.



The cleaning process

- Using an in-out motion, continue to pump water through the barrel in order to clean the breach-plug area and barrel.
- Remove the barrel from the bucket
- Hold the barrel using a rag, and pour boiling water down the barrel. This will heat up the barrel and will cause rapid evaporation of the remaining water in the barrel, preventing rust.
- Use clean, dry flannel cleaning patches and your ramrod to further dry the inside of your barrel.



The cleaning process

- Use a rag and some cleaning agent to clean the outside of the barrel.



- Use a pipe cleaner or cotton ear bud to clean the percussion nipple area at the back of the barrel.



The cleaning process

- Using an old toothbrush, clean the percussion nipple using hot water and some cleaning agent.



- A pipe cleaner works well to clean the inside of the nipple.



The cleaning process

- Make sure that the nipple channel is clear after cleaning by sliding a nipple prick through the hole.



- Clean the hammer with a flannel cloth and cleaning agent.



Before re-assembly

- Coat the inside of the barrel with a non-petroleum based lubricant, like Ballistol.
- Lubricate the percussion nipple thread. This will prevent rust and facilitate removal.
- Coat all metal parts with oil or lubricant.
- While the barrel is still removed from the stock, oil the stock all over with a wood preservative oil, like Schaftol or Ballistol. This will prevent the stock from becoming dry and cracking.
- This is also the perfect opportunity to inspect your weapon all over for loose screws, cracks and the barrel in general.
- Remember to clean the sights as well.

Re-assembly

- Place the barrel back into the stock.
- Screw in the percussion nipple and flash cup (if fitted). Be careful not to over tighten the percussion nipple.
- Make sure the hammer is resting on the nipple before storage. (must not be on half or full cock).

