

Wagner & Griswold Society

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Wagner and Griswold Society Information > Cast Iron (general info) > Cleaning and Restoration
(Moderators: [Scott Sanders](#), [Jeff Friend](#))

 Suggestions? (Read 1395 times)

C. Perry Rapier
WAGS member
★★★★★

 **Suggestions?**

Aug 22nd, 2010, 8:18pm

I know we have talked about painted pieces before. I have this waffle iron that is painted black. I have some of it in electro, and the electro is not doing so good, I am pulling it out every now and then and using an SOS pad on it to help it along, and its slow going, and I got a big piece of it to do yet. Is there a better way to get this paint off without damaging the waffle iron? I mean, like paint stripper or something like that, would that work? Like I said, I don't want to do anything that might damage this piece.

Thanks for any suggestions. I appreciate it. 😊

Roger Barfield
Forum Administrator
WAGS member
★★★★★

 **Re: Suggestions?**

Reply #1 - Aug 22nd, 2010, 8:26pm

Perry, I'm pretty sure lye will take it off. I know when I first set mine up, it took what was left of the Japan finish off a waffle iron base.

Will Person
Forum Administrator
★★★★★

 **Re: Suggestions?**

Reply #2 - Aug 22nd, 2010, 8:49pm

Lye should remove it. I see no problem with paint stripper???? You should not hurt cast iron with it. Would I want to eat from it ever after the stripper???

Will 😊


Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

 **Re: Suggestions?**

Reply #3 - Aug 22nd, 2010, 9:35pm

Lye has always worked for me on paint. SO has electro, but I have run into trouble with both depending on the paint. That's one piece I will drop in the lye, and forget about it. I have a #12 base in the lye right now that is giving me some trouble.

C. Perry Rapier
WAGS member
★★★★★


 **Re: Suggestions?**

Reply #4 - Aug 22nd, 2010, 10:11pm

Thanks guys. 😊

I think I'll try the lye. I never even give that a thought.


Jeff Seago
WAGS member
★★★★★

 **Re: Suggestions?**

Reply #5 - Aug 23rd, 2010, 1:31pm

I think I should get paid to advertise this stuff but it really does work. The product is called Citristrip. It has taken off everything that I have used it on from epoxy paint to japanned finish. If you have a few spots that are giving you trouble just put on a dab and let it sit for a while. I have never had it rust a piece of iron before and I have used it quite a bit.

C. Perry Rapier
WAGS member
★★★★★


 **Re: Suggestions?**

Reply #6 - Aug 23rd, 2010, 1:59pm

<http://www.citristrip.com/>

Heres their website Jeff. It looks like my kind of stuff, simple and easy to use. Thanks for another idea. 😊

Lee Mitchell
Ex Forum Member

 **Re: Suggestions?**

Reply #7 - Aug 24th, 2010, 4:38am

Let me add my thanks, too. I've got a painted bean pot to clean up. Know there's at least 2 layers of paint. Green under black. I use Citristrip for wood, so there's some already in the shop. Should speed up the process of getting that bean pot clean.

Lee


Tom Meinke
Ex Forum Member

 **Re: Suggestions?**

Reply #8 - Aug 26th, 2010, 9:53am

2 hours in the self clean oven will have it down to bare metal

C. Perry Rapier
WAGS member
★★★★★


 **Re: Suggestions?**

Reply #9 - Aug 26th, 2010, 12:15pm

I thought about that too Tom. But I don't want to get all that stinking smoke in my kitchen if I can get around it. The seasoning smoke, in small amounts I can deal with, but paint smoke, I'm afraid thats another issue. 😊

I'm gonna see what this lye does, and if it don't suit me, I will do the self cleaning oven route.


Jim Stewart
Ex Forum Member

 **Re: Suggestions?**

Reply #10 - Oct 31st, 2010, 1:19am

I have a Colonial Breakfast skillet that somewhere in years gone by was painted. Now I plan on using it as a fajita server, and found this forum to assess ways to remove what I suspect is lead paint. I thought about using the cleaning cycle in an oven, but am concerned about lead fumes in the air. Also about remnants of lead in the pan after cleaning. Are either of these a problem. After reading some of these threads, I suspect I will try a lye bath outdoors.

Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

 **Re: Suggestions?**

Reply #11 - Oct 31st, 2010, 1:38am

Another suggestion for paint removal. Clean it the best you can with lye, and electro. The pop it in the oven, and run it up to 550 degrees, 100 degrees at a time. The paint will loosen, and should come off after that with some scrubbing. This has worked with stubborn japaning on WI bases.

As for lead paint, I'm not sure if there would be any lead left behind after cleaning with either lye, or electro, or both for that matter. I guess the surface could be tested for residual lead after cleaning, but I'm not sure where you could get that done, or it could be done at home with a lead paint testing kit. I've seen them used in homes to test for lead paint, but I'm not sure if it would work on CI pieces. I would think that the self cleaning oven would work, just vent the house really well to remove the fumes.