

Wagner & Griswold Society

Online Forum: [Wagner and Griswold Forum](#)

Join Now: [Wagner and Griswold Society Membership](#)

Visit Us on Facebook: [Wagner and Griswold Society](#)

[WAGS Cast Iron Cooking](#)

Wagner and Griswold Society Information > Cast Iron (general info) > Cleaning and Restoration

(Moderators: [Scott Sanders](#), [Jeff Friend](#))

 waffle iron questions (Read 2368 times)

Douglas York
Ex Forum Member

 **waffle iron questions**

Aug 24th, 2010, 11:03pm

OK, so I got my Griswold waffle iron today. I'm going to throw it into lye tomorrow. I've cleaned up a few skillets, but never anything like this. The spring handles are a mystery to me. I've looked at a few other threads on it. Not sure if I saw all of them but I still have a few questions.

1.) I'd like to get the handles off to clean them, but one of them seems pretty gunked into place. Doesn't seem to want to turn and I don't want to force it. The other one turns, but how do you get the tension off the spring to take it off? Maybe the other one will turn if I take the tension off of it? Should I wait to try to remove these until after they've been in the lye bath for awhile?

2.) If need be, can I just leave them on and never take them off to season/clean the waffle iron?

Any other tips/links on seasoning and cleaning a waffle iron would be appreciated.

Thanks!

Roger Barfield
Forum Administrator

 **Re: waffle iron questions**

Reply #1 - Aug 24th, 2010, 11:07pm

I would let them soak in the lye then try and remove them.

WAGS member



Posts: 7399

Gene Dietzenbach
Ex Forum Member

 **Re: waffle iron questions**

Reply #2 - Aug 25th, 2010, 12:03am

I agree with Roger, try soaking them first and they should break loose. I would take them off. It is alot easier to clean once they are off. There isn't any real tension on the springs, just enough to hold them in place. Once you get them off it's easier to clean the rod that holds the spring to the iron, plus it's easier to season with them off. This is just how I do it and it works for me.

Robert Hilman
WAGS member

 **Re: waffle iron questions**

Reply #3 - Aug 25th, 2010, 11:09pm

Spray with WD-40 let sit 5 minutes and they will come right off.

WAGS member



Posts: 926

Douglas York
Ex Forum Member

 **Re: waffle iron questions**

Reply #4 - Aug 25th, 2010, 11:42pm

Well, the whole kit and kaboodle is the lye bath right now. This thing looks like it sat in a barn for years, but it's in pretty good shape (I hope). I'm not sure if it was painted black at some time or if it's just old seasoning. Maybe tomorrow when it's light outside I'll take it out of the lye, then spray it with the WD40 then unscrew and put it back in the lye. Here are some pictures. Should be lots of fun to clean and season. I'm sure I'll have lots of questions for everyone.



Douglas York
Ex Forum Member

 **Re: waffle iron questions**

Reply #5 - Aug 25th, 2010, 11:43pm

Another one.



Douglas York
Ex Forum Member

 **Re: waffle iron questions**

Reply #6 - Aug 25th, 2010, 11:45pm

Another.



Douglas York
Ex Forum Member

 **Re: waffle iron questions**

Reply #7 - Aug 25th, 2010, 11:46pm
Right before I added lye.



Gene Dietzenbach
Ex Forum Member

 **Re: waffle iron questions**

Reply #8 - Aug 26th, 2010, 1:12am
Douglas, when you said Griswold Waffle Iron, I was thinking that you had a regular WI. I was surprised to see your pic and find out that it's a heart star, nice find. It does look like it has some old paint on it, but the lye should do the trick. Looks like it should clean up nice.

Harry Riva
Forum Administrator
★★★★★

 **Re: waffle iron questions**

Reply #9 - Aug 26th, 2010, 1:27am
Douglas, I assume you know the coil is held on by the eye bolt that threads into the paddle. You unscrew the bolt and the coil handle falls off. The bolts can break off so you have to be patient and careful in getting them out. Try some liquid wrench on the eye bolts where they thread into the paddle. Nice iron so go slow.
Harry

Posts: 3941

Lee Mitchell
Ex Forum Member

 **Re: waffle iron questions**

Reply #10 - Aug 26th, 2010, 7:50am
Best thing I've found for dealing with situations like this one is PB Blaster. IMHO, it does a much better job than WD40. Used it on everything from tractor bolts to a "frozen" treadle sewing machine head. Works faster than WD40 and will loosen things that WD40 wouldn't budge.

Good luck with getting your WI apart and cleaned up.

Lee

Douglas York
Ex Forum Member

 **Re: waffle iron questions**

Reply #11 - Aug 26th, 2010, 8:26pm
So I got home from work today and pulled that WI from the lye and with a little WD40 I was able to get one of the handles apart. The other one does not budge at all. I left the WD40 on it for about 5 minutes twice. No luck. Should I try leaving the WD40 on it overnight? Maybe buy some of this BP Blaster? Is it safe to leave these products on the iron for a few hours? I'm pretty sure it's just rusted on there. Of course, I want to remove it, but I've put all of the pressure on it I feel comfortable trying. Any more and I'm afraid it may break. So, it's back in the lye tank right now where hopefully it's safe - even with a bit of wd40 still on it? It seemed pretty clean so I doubt it's grease/paint that's causing it to stick. It doesn't seem too rusty, but evidently it's just rusty enough. Anyone ever had this problem?

Lee Mitchell
Ex Forum Member

 **Re: waffle iron questions**

Reply #12 - Aug 26th, 2010, 9:25pm
I haven't had any problems with using PB Blaster on metals. Just spray and let it soak. Took me about 2 days of periodic spraying to free ups that sewing machine head. No damage. BTW, where WD 40 got ot on the decals, it destroyed them. PB Blaster didn't mar them at all.

BTW, try turning the handle as if to tighten it, just a bit. Sometimes movement in the opposite direction (just a fraction) is enough to break a rust bond. Sometimes GENTLY tapping with a small hammer will work.

A small amount of WD 40 (after it's had a chance for the solvent to evaporate) shouldn't hurt your lye bath. If you see a thin film floating on top, use paper towels to skim it off. Just be careful and don't drip the lye solution onto anything that it can damage or where you can come into contact with it bare handed.

Something else to try. Heat it, then let it cool. The expansion and contraction of the metal may be enough to break that bond. Just be sure to heat the piece evenly so you don't crack it by just trying to heat the handle area.

Hope this helps. Good luck.

Lee

Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

 **Re: waffle iron questions**

Reply #13 - Aug 26th, 2010, 10:11pm
Douglas, here's a suggestion that has always worked for me. At this point, scrub the paddle that has the stuck handle, like you were getting ready to season it. Dry it off, turn the burner on the stove to between low, and medium, and place the paddle directly on it with the area that the handle attaches on the burner. Let it heat up. It may not smell too good if the wd-40 is still in there, but it will pass. When you figure that it's hot enough, about 20 minutes, use heavy gloves, remove it from the burner, and place the paddles in a thick rag. Now here's the tricky part. Place it between your knees, the thick rag will protect you. Now try to turn the eye bolt out. Try to get working on it before it can cool down. This has always worked for me. You just need to be careful of the hot iron. If it doesn't work at first, try heating it a bit hotter.
What is most likely making it stick is the old cooking grease / lard they used in it. It seeped into the threads and turn into a gummy mess that would work better that high strength loctite on those threads. The heat will soften the gummy mess, and allow you to get the eye bolt out. Like I said, this has never failed for me. Most of the time, the elcctro heats the piece enough to do this, but there are those times when a little more heat is needed.

Posts: 8632

Douglas York
Ex Forum Member

 **Re: waffle iron questions**

Reply #14 - Aug 26th, 2010, 11:35pm

Eureka! I'll give it a heating tomorrow. When I first got it home, before I put it in the lye bath, the first thing I did was heat up one of the paddles on the high base to make sure it would get hot enough to sizzle water over my electric stove. In other words, before I did anything to it I wanted to make sure it would work. So I heated one paddle not the other. One paddle handle came out pretty easily, the other won't turn. I wonder which one it was! Perhaps I already inadvertently used your method Chuck.

I will definitely get back to you with the results.

By the way, you see how my lye bath water was clear? That's because each time I get a new piece I have to make a new lye bath. I have to keep it at my folk's house because I live in an apartment. Well, my parents don't like caustic sitting around any longer than necessary, so if there's ever any time where there isn't any iron in there, they dispose of the lye water. (There are grandchildren around sometimes.) Does this stop me from making new lye baths? No way! Perhaps I should just always have cast iron in the lye bath, then they could never get rid of it. Ha ha ha!

Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 8632

 **Re: waffle iron questions**

Reply #15 - Aug 27th, 2010, 12:02am

Could very well be that you did loosen the handle of the one paddle. Just be very careful with it. Just remember, the thick rag you wrap it in should be 100% cotton. It won't melt to the iron. Other blended types of material will. I found that out the hard way. Luckily it came off in the electro.

Yes, please let me know how you make out. And I like your idea of keeping iron in the lye bath all the time. If you have a lid for it, try drilling a hole in the lip that you could put a pad lock through. Maybe on a couple of the sides to keep the grandchildren out of it. Maybe a couple of clamps that they would find difficult to remove would be another idea. Just a suggestion for those times when they are there, and there is iron in the lye bath. You just never know what kids will get into.

Brad Dimond

Posts: 378

 **Re: waffle iron questions**

Reply #16 - Aug 27th, 2010, 3:01am

A trick I learned from a friend of mine who's a transmission rebuilder--if you have a really tough time breaking a nut or bolt free, TIGHTEN IT 1/8-1/4 turn or so until you hear it "pop," then loosen it. I know it sounds counter-intuitive, but I've used it many, many times when nothing else worked.....

Brad

Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 8632

 **Re: waffle iron questions**

Reply #17 - Aug 27th, 2010, 4:19pm

That's a good trick Brad. That's also worked for me on the WI handles. I still heat them first though. Whether on the stove, or in the electro.

Douglas York
Ex Forum Member

 **Re: waffle iron questions**

Reply #18 - Aug 27th, 2010, 11:42pm

Well, I got it unscrewed. It took some heat and some muscle, but it's out. I kept thinking that if I could just push down on that little ring it would probably allow the rod/bolt to spin freely. Nothing doing. When the rod finally turned I bent the spring a bit. The eye turned the ring which bent the spring. Panic. Terror. I got the rod out and put it in the lye with the iron and ring. Put the spring in a cotton towel into a vice and bent it back. It seems as good as new. I put it all back together and it seems fine. I wasn't able to get all the rust off before heating the paddle. Do you think heating a rusty paddle hurt it? It's not major rust and not on the cooking surface. Tomorrow I'll pull everything out of the lye, buy one of those brushes I saw on another thread and then it's elbow grease and barkeepers friend. Is it safe to soak the bolts/threads in vinegar water if necessary? Also, once I get the rust off of the paddle what do i do to smooth out the areas that were rusty? Maybe they won't need to be smoothed? Do areas that had rust season ok once the rust is gone? My plan is to season the springs and rods and threads just like I normally do pans (crisco) then what dab of petroleum based grease should I use on the threads so they don't ever bind up again? My dad has a sandblaster, can I blast just the rods and springs only? Is it ok to use one of those brushes on the interior threads of the paddle? (pauses to catch breath) last few questions. Whenever I season skillets I follow the main directions from this site to the letter. But with this, I can't fry bacon on it to complete the process so what do you guys do to get it as nonstick and dark as possible? Higher heat? Different oil? Thanks in advance for any questions any of you can answer. I'll post some more pics the iron rusty, naked an hopefully seasoned tomorrow.

John Kennedy
Ex Forum Member

 **Re: waffle iron questions**

Reply #19 - Aug 28th, 2010, 1:22pm

How many different style/type handles did griswold use on the #8 American waffle iron?

What handle style is found on the most expensive 8 American WI?

Mike Bohannon
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 2581

 **Re: waffle iron questions**

Reply #20 - Aug 28th, 2010, 1:42pm

John, there are 3 types of wire coil (Alaskan) handles and 3 types of wood handles- long dowel type, stubbie dowel, and a contoured (aka 'coke bottle'). Probably the type on the most expensive would be the short stubbie wood handle on the older 8 Griswold or Seldon and Griswold with a lattice, spider web, or circular pattern on the inside of the paddles. There is a fourth type of coil handle on the electric waffle iron.

Those are the types I'm aware of and my thoughts on values. Mike

OOPS! There is also the bakelite handles on the hammered Gris waffle iron also.

John Kennedy
Ex Forum Member

 **Re: waffle iron questions**

Reply #21 - Aug 28th, 2010, 2:10pm

Thanks,
I will save this info, it clarifies a lot for me..

Harry Riva
Forum Administrator
★★★★★

Posts: 3941

 **Re: waffle iron questions**

Reply #22 - Aug 28th, 2010, 3:00pm

Douglas, It's a bad idea to sandblast any piece of cast iron and the hadles are no exception. You don't want to take the plating off if you can help it. You can try vinegar on the rust but you have to be very, very cautious and only leave the iron in vinegar for a little bit at a time. Vinegar is very corrosive and it will eat away the iron. An hour or so max at a time ought to be ok but I don't use vinegar so wait till someone comes along and verifies the time.
Harry