

# Wagner & Griswold Society

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## 📁 Cascade Dishwasher Powder (Read 1540 times)

**👤 Tom Neitzel**  
Forum Administrator  
★★★★★

**📄 Cascade Dishwasher Powder**

Feb 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 3:12pm

I think I've said before that I don't collect waffle irons, but they seem to still accumulate in my garage. I just couldn't pass a 7 Stover at an antique mall and figured out I had another 8 in the garage. Both were pretty clean and showed a lot of japanning on the base. I wanted to be carefule to preserve as much of the japanning as I could so I didn't want to use lye or my oven to clean off the caked on carbon.

I figured that maybe I could soak them in a solution of Cascade Dishwasher powder so I got a stainless steel roasting pan, put some hot water in and mixed a pretty concentrated solution and threw the bases in to soak. I checked back after about 12 hours and was impressed to see most of the crud loosened.

But as I took them to the sink to clean them better I found that it had also taken off most of the remaining japanning. It cleaned the iron just about like I had put it in the lye bath - rats. I've dropped them in the lye to complete the process but I'm a little disappointed.

I think I'm going to try using it again to loosen crud but be a bit more careful. It seems that I've had another powerful cleaning tool in my cabinet and never really knew.

Tom

Posts: 4559

**👤 C. Perry Rapier**  
WAGS member  
★★★★★

**📄 Re: Cascade Dishwasher Powder**

**Reply #1** - Feb 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 3:29pm

Thanks for the information Tom. Thanks for giving us another cleaning tool. 😊

And I know what you mean about collecting waffle irons. I don't collect them either, but I do accumulate some though. 😊😊

Posts: 23581

**👤 Tom Neitzel**  
Forum Administrator  
★★★★★

**📄 Re: Cascade Dishwasher Powder**

**Reply #2** - Feb 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 3:43pm

I was really impressed at how clean it did leave the iron. Looked like it had just been cast. I guess I should have known it would be strong as it will etch and cloud crystal in the dishwasher (that's one of the reasons you shouldn't was good crystal in the dishwasher.)

Tom

Posts: 4559

**👤 Greg Stahl**  
Forum Administrator  
WAGS member  
★★★★★  
Ole Scratch

**📄 Re: Cascade Dishwasher Powder**

**Reply #3** - Feb 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 4:09pm

wonder how that would work in electrolysis too

Posts: 13454

**T. Lyle Coggins**  
Ex Forum Member

**📄 Re: Cascade Dishwasher Powder**

**Reply #4** - Feb 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 4:34pm

Below is a link to the Household Products Data Base.

Lists the Ingredients but not the percentage in the product. Maybe someone with some chemical background could comment.

<http://hpd.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/household/brands?tbl=brands&id=16003248>

**👤 Greg Stahl**  
Forum Administrator  
WAGS member  
★★★★★  
Ole Scratch

**📄 Re: Cascade Dishwasher Powder**

**Reply #5** - Feb 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 12:58pm

well it has sodium carbonate and that is washing soda, so it might just work!!

Posts: 13454

**👤 C. B. Williams**  
Forum Administrator  
WAGS member  
★★★★★

**📄 Re: Cascade Dishwasher Powder**

**Reply #6** - Feb 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 11:28am

Hmmm, any electrolyte should work in the electrolysis tank, but this stuff might have the added advantage of some extra cleaning power while the electrolysis is working. We have used it for years in the dishwasher.

Posts: 5348

**👤 Jake Weber**

**📄 Re: Cascade Dishwasher Powder**

**Reply #7** - Feb 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 8:20pm

Hello everyone,  
Just thought I'd answer a question or two for you guys. I've been using the **Cascade lemon scented Powder dishwasher detergent** for over a year now in my electrolysis tank and it works fantastic. When I set up my first electrolysis tank that is what I used for my electrolyte. I'm not sure if i had read somewhere to use it or if it was just dumb luck, but I'd recommend it to anyone. It seems to do great with the added bonus of a clean citrus scent while its fizzing away cooking your iron. I have had no troubles reaching 10-30 Amps on the 40 Amp setting using this solution and plain-jane scrap steel plate for my anode. (I don't have a suave SS barrel yet) 😊 My set-up is in a 35gal rubbermaid garbage can that has probably around 25-30 gal of water in it. From the start I'd add about 1/2 to 3/4 box for the 25-30gal of water. So for the sake of numbers I'd say about 1 cup/5 gal of water. I share this as FYI, not saying its better/worse than other electroytes as I would be unable to compare, however, I've used it from the start and have had no issues with it. If you've seen any of my threads where I've redone pieces, its had a trip through the electrified cascade fizz-bath. Please feel free to ask any questions you might have if my extensive rambling doesn't make sense. Hahaha. Also, just for the sake of the visual learners out there (like myself), here is what I use:



**👤 Greg Stahl**  
Forum Administrator  
WAGS member  
★★★★★

**📄 Re: Cascade Dishwasher Powder**

**Reply #8** - Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 3:52pm

next trip to the supermarket and some is coming home with me. I have a wafer iron to clean

Ole Scratch

Posts: 13454

**👤 Rick Gilley**  
WAGS member  
★★★★★

**📄 Re: Cascade Dishwasher Powder**

**Reply #9** - Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 7:35pm

next time I dump and clean my electro...I am gonna try some also.

Posts: 3649

**👤 Lee Sumner**

**📄 Re: Cascade Dishwasher Powder**

**Reply #10** - Mar 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011, 4:32pm

**Quote from Rick Gilley on Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 7:35pm:**  
**next time I dump and clean my electro...I am gonna try some also.**

My Name Is Nobody

I just dumped and refilled my electro using Cascade as my electrolyte. I'm anxious to see the results on a skillet I just put in. I'll give an update (with pictures) when finished.

Posts: 1014

**👤 C. Perry Rapier**  
WAGS member  
★★★★★

**📄 Re: Cascade Dishwasher Powder**

**Reply #11** - Mar 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011, 7:02pm

Hello Lee, yes, please be sure and let us know how it works. I'm anxious to find out. 😊

Posts: 23581

**👤 Jerry Cermack**  
Global Moderator  
WAGS member

**📄 Re: Cascade Dishwasher Powder**

**Reply #12** - Jul 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, 5:40pm



After reading this thread some months ago, I decided to put some Cascade powder (that we use in our dishwasher) in my Electro barrel but I did not drain and refill it. I just added about 2 cups to the existing water that already had Washing Soda in it. IMO, it really helped in cleaning pieces. Might be my imagination, but with no more than I added to probably 35-40 gallon of soda water, the pieces clean a lot faster with lower amperage on my charger. My stainless steel seems to stay cleaner too?

Collector

Posts: 5810

**Cheryl Watson**  
Forum Administrator  
WAGS member



Posts: 4009

**Re: Cascade Dishwasher Powder**

**Reply #13** - Jul 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, 7:29pm

**Quote from Jerry Cermack on Jul 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, 5:40pm:**

After reading this thread some months ago, I decided to put some Cascade powder (that we use in our dishwasher) in my Electro barrel but I did not drain and refill it. I just added about 2 cups to the existing water that already had Washing Soda in it. IMO, it really helped in cleaning pieces. Might be my imagination, but with no more than I added to probably 35-40 gallon of soda water, the pieces clean a lot faster with lower amperage on my charger. My stainless steel seems to stay cleaner too?

Jerry,

Has it caused any thing to heat up...? Having added to the existing washing soda, would that not raise the concentration, which might cause overheating of clamps and connectors?... Or , does that only happen if the AMPS go up from higher concentration? Or did you add additional water?

**Re: Cascade Dishwasher Powder**

**Reply #14** - Jul 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, 8:31pm

**Quote from Cheryl Watson on Jul 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, 7:29pm:**

Jerry,

Has it caused any thing to heat up...? Having added to the existing washing soda, would that not raise the concentration, which might cause overheating of clamps and connectors?... Or , does that only happen if the AMPS go up from higher concentration? Or did you add additional water?

I'm not an electro expert, but I have had a small setup for a number of years to de-rust tools, cast iron banks, etc. I can run mine at a rate that connections will get pretty warm if it pulls 30 amps or more. I try to keep it pulling between 20 and 30 amps when de-rusting or removing paint from items. I either use the 10 amp or 40 amp setting on my charger. Since I added Cascade to the soda water, I've had to move a piece farther away from the SS liner in my barrel, or run my charger at 10 amps to keep the amps in the range I want to clean well, but not have a melt down. With mine, anything above the water will get pretty warm pulling 20 amps or more, but not the piece itself or the hanger below the water line.

I dont use an elaborate setup with clamps, etc. I only use a clamp when I cannot bolt a piece tightly to the negative. I have a 55 gal plastic drum, cut off to about 30" height. I have one piece of thin SS rolled into a circle as a liner and a SS rod bolted to that to attach the Positive. I just use a simple wood board with multiple holes drilled in it to hang pieces. I use Threaded rod bent at 90 degrees on the end for most things and attach them with washers and a wing nut. If I have a piece that I can't bolt to a rod, I use a simple spring clamp like shown in the next posting. If I want to do more than one piece at a time, which I seldom do, I can hang two or more pieces with my threaded rod hangers, and bolt a strap across the top of the hangers, and attach the Negative.

Like I said, any system that works is a good system. When I first made an electro on a smaller scale years ago, I used whatever I could find for the sacrificial metal from coffee cans to cheap SS stove burner covers from Walmart. It worked 😊

Soup.JPG



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**Jerry Cermack**  
Global Moderator  
WAGS member



Posts: 5810

**Re: Cascade Dishwasher Powder**

**Reply #15** - Jul 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, 8:33pm

My Clamp hanger I use when necessary.

Electro\_Board\_2.jpg



**Jerry Cermack**  
Global Moderator  
WAGS member



Collector

Post: 810

**Re: Cascade Dishwasher Powder**

**Reply #16** - Jul 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011, 10:47pm

Here is some thought provoking old info on Electrolysis that I had. I never tried putting Lye in with the Soda!..... 😊

The amount of current your setup draws depends upon the following:

Power supply voltage—More volts, more current.

Size of workpiece—Larger workpiece, more current.

Size of "waste" electrode—Larger waste electrode, more current.

Workpiece/waste electrode spacing—Shorter distance, more current. Longer spacing, less.

Strength of solution—Stronger solution, more current.

One 3½ pound box of washing soda and an 18-ounce container of Red Devil lye for a 55-gallon batch.....and it was called a fairly weak solution?

Here is a recipe for a strong solution for a gallon. I never tried it either.

Washing soda 10-oz.  
Lye 1.7-oz.  
Tri-sodium-phosphate (TSP) 3.3-oz.  
Water glass (sodium silicate) 1.7-oz.

Multiply it out and you'll find it would require almost ten boxes of washing soda for a 55-gallon batch!

**Cheryl Watson**  
Forum Administrator  
WAGS member



Posts: 4009

**Re: Cascade Dishwasher Powder**

**Reply #17** - Jul 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011, 9:36am

Thanks for the pics Jerry!

My original plan was for SS to line my barrel... but.... you all know how that turned out!  
So SS Plates are it for the time being... it just made it a bit more complicated! (or at least it LOOKS that way)...  
Wow, where did you get that 'old' information you listed? And has anyone ever tried adding all of those things to the electrolyte? Jeez... that concentration seems like it would cause the electro to self destruct!  
I think I'll stick to the currently recommended amount of washing soda, and 'maybe' try some Cascade, added to existing as you have done!