

Wagner & Griswold Society

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

NOW WHAT !!!!! (Read 1137 times)

Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

NOW WHAT !!!!!

Aug 27th, 2011, 4:09pm

Most of the questions in this section deal with cleaning and seasoning some super gunked up piece that has been sitting, unused, for many years. Once we get them looking so pretty, we want them to stay that way. Sometimes we have that little mishap, and the skillet looks like this afterwards.

[co1.jpg](#)



Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

Re: NOW WHAT !!!!!

Reply #1 - Aug 27th, 2011, 4:12pm

I'm no stranger to this issue. Deb likes chess omlets, and I've dealt with this many times in the past. At this point, the skillet was used to fry up 1 lb of hickory smoked, sugar cured bacon, and Debs omlet. Well, not much of an omlet. More like scrambled eggs.

P.S. I was not present at the time of the "Mishap" 😊

NOW WHAT

Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

Re: NOW WHAT !!!!!

Reply #2 - Aug 27th, 2011, 4:16pm

The gunk is about 1/8" thick on this piece, and there is a simple way of removing it without dunking it back into the lye bath, or electro.

Allow the skillet to cool before doing anything. Add enough water to cover the gunk, place back on the burner, and heat on low.

[co2.jpg](#)



Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

Re: NOW WHAT !!!!!

Reply #3 - Aug 27th, 2011, 4:21pm

Once reheated, and you'll know when there is a tiny bit of steam rising from the water, use your spatula to gently scrap the gunk from the bottom of the skillet. All the utensils I use in my iron are stainless steel, but at this low temp, a plastic one could be used. Invest in a nice set of stainless steel utensils. They are worth the money.

[co3.jpg](#)



Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

Re: NOW WHAT !!!!!

Reply #4 - Aug 27th, 2011, 4:23pm

Once the spatula rides smooth over the bottom of the skillet, you've done all you can do at this point. Remember, GENTLE pressure is all that's needed.

Posts: 8632

Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

Re: NOW WHAT !!!!!

Reply #5 - Aug 27th, 2011, 4:27pm

Now that you have the gunk removed, just dump the water / gunk mixture from the skillet, and dry with a wad of paper towels. Your skillet may look like this, so let's move to the next step.

Posts: 8632

Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

Re: NOW WHAT !!!!!

Reply #6 - Aug 27th, 2011, 4:32pm

Still a little left in the corners, but it's not thick, and it's loose from the warm water. The brownish area in the center is not rust, just a layer of the existing seasoning. Now add just a small amount of water into the skillet, grab your plastic scrubbie, and gently scour out the remaining egg / cheese mess.

Posts: 8632

[co5.jpg](#)



Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 8632

Re: NOW WHAT !!!!!

Reply #7 - Aug 27th, 2011, 4:37pm

You'll find that the remaining mess will come off easily. Once you're done with the gentle scrubbing, rinse, and dry with a few paper towels. A quick shot of original Pam, a good wipe down with more paper towels, and the skillet is ready for use once more. All of this takes about 10 minutes or so.

This is actually the first cast iron pan Deb and I started to use. It is an S. P. Co #9. (Stuart Peterson & Co) out of Philadelphia PA. As you can see in the last pic, there is a nice sized cast flaw on the inside of the skillet. This has no affect on the usability of the skillet, so don't discount a piece like this. They make excellent users.

 [co6.jpg](#)



Mary Deem
Ex Forum Member

Re: NOW WHAT !!!!!

Reply #8 - Aug 27th, 2011, 10:09pm

Thanks for a great tutorial!!!! Boy I wish that I had run across that in my early cast iron cooking days...

The before picture is great...really terrifying. I admit that I might be tempted to have a small 'courage cup' of something alcoholic before tackling that 😊

Cheese can be lethal...especially combined with eggs...I think we have all had some sort of similar cheese/and/or egg mishap.. Never assume that these sort of things are the sole province of rank newbies...

Claudia Killebrew
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 1600

Re: NOW WHAT !!!!!

Reply #9 - Aug 28th, 2011, 12:56am

Chuck, I thought that was a homemade crocheted scrubbie. If you can get Deb to wrangle the pattern out of her friend, I'd appreciate it. I crochet. I could use that instead of buying the plastic ones.

Tom Penkava
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 1706

Re: NOW WHAT !!!!!

Reply #10 - Aug 28th, 2011, 8:56am

Good Morning everyone!

Tom's wife, Elaine, here with 'scrubby' information. I make these from Bridal veiling: cut stripes 1 1/2" wide, width of veiling (mine is 108"); large size kneedles 12 or 13, knit; cast on 24-26 stitches, knit each row (garter stitch) until you have a piece the size of your hand, slightly rectangular. bind off, done! NEVER clean a sharp knife with this, as when it goes into the washing machine, it will unravel into a mess of stuff! I keep one just for scrubbing cast iron, and others for daily dish washing. These never "sour", but do need to be washed regularly with the kitchen towels, etc.

Roger Barfield
Forum Administrator
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 7399

Re: NOW WHAT !!!!!

Reply #11 - Aug 28th, 2011, 11:18am

Welcome Elaine, nice to have you talking to us.

Jodi Nielson
Ex Forum Member

Re: NOW WHAT !!!!!

Reply #12 - Aug 28th, 2011, 11:23am

Elaine--could you knit these on double points with increases and decrease to make them like a ball and then stuff with extra netting? Just to give ya a bit more to hold on to....

I'll have to look into this because, of course, I don't have enough projects going on right now... 😊

And for anyone who's interested.....Chuck does this a lot. He's posted several running threads of "before to after" processes--not sure where they're all at but a search should turn them up.

Thanks Chuck--your contributions to the forum are invaluable. 😊

Chuck Rogers
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 8632

Re: NOW WHAT !!!!!

Reply #13 - Aug 28th, 2011, 3:29pm

Thank you Elaine. Deb and I weren't sure where to get these, unless the craft show was in town. She stocks up when she sees them. I don't have the slightest idea how to make them, but I know that they work. Maybe Deb could take on the task of handmaking these herself.

Jodi, these are basically an empty ball that's flat. You could stuff them, but these work great as is. Sorry I can't tell you how to make them. I don't do the "crochet / knitting" thing.

Tom Penkava
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 1706

Re: NOW WHAT !!!!!

Reply #14 - Aug 28th, 2011, 5:13pm

[Quote from Jodi Nielson on Aug 28th, 2011, 11:23am:](#)

Elaine--could you knit these on double points with increases and decrease to make them like a ball and then stuff with extra netting? Just to give ya a bit more to hold on to....I'll have to look into this because, of course, I don't have enough projects going on right now... 😊 😊

Jodi,

I am sure you could do these on the "four" needles, I have never tried that; I happen to like the single layer, flexibility of the style that I do....Elaine