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

Cleaning painted pieces? (Read 385 times)

Ken Gilbertsen
Ex Forum Member

Cleaning painted pieces?

Apr 2nd, 2012, 10:41am

I have had 1 side of my newly acquired Griswold WI cooking in the electro for about 16 hours and 1 side in the lye bath for the same amount of time. When I bought the iron it looked like it was painted - I could see some orange/rust colored paint under the outer coat. Well, the electro seems to be working in spots, and not working over most of the surface. I hit it with a ss wire brush which did remove some layers in spots, but it's not going to clean up easily. I haven't done anything with the half that's sitting in the lye bath, since it's only been a short time. Will the lye touch the paint? I guess I'm wondering if my efforts will be better spent in the lye bath or cooking the pieces in the electro? (The piece isn't real dirty.)

EDIT: Or should I just use some paint remover???

Ken

John Arsenault
WAGS member
★★★★★

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #1 - Apr 2nd, 2012, 11:26am

Ken, Either will work. Lye may be faster? I also collect old Lanterns, I have had a Electro set up for years and used it on the lanterns, it worked well but would take days to remove all the paint. Have not tried the Lye bath on a lantern yet. Have only had it set up a few months. Just give it time.
John A

Posts: 1309

Matthew Stockinger

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #2 - Apr 2nd, 2012, 11:53am

I've got a painted corn pan in the lye bath right now. No other crust or rust, just paint on bare iron. I'm gonna pull it out this afternoon. It'll have been in there about three days. I'll let you know how it turns out.

Posts: 223

Cheryl Watson
Forum Administrator
WAGS member
★★★★★

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #3 - Apr 2nd, 2012, 12:00pm

Lye should take care of paint. How quickly, depends on the lye ratio.... I'd soak it in the lye first, and save on your electric bill! 😊

Posts: 4009

Now if you want to experiment, since one paddle is already in the lye, well.... brush on some ZipStrip and then let us know which worked better!! 😊😊

Ken Gilbertsen
Ex Forum Member

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #4 - Apr 2nd, 2012, 1:59pm

Thanks all. I will continue with 1 side in the lye and the other in the electro and see which works better/quicker. I may try some paint remover if it looks like it's going to take weeks. Matthew, I am looking forward to your results from the lye bath.

Ken

Matthew Stockinger

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #5 - Apr 2nd, 2012, 6:13pm

Just pulled it out, most of the paint came off under the sink just rubbing my gloves over it. A little bit of scrubbing, took care of the rest. There are just a couple of stubborn "kernels" that are still a little black. I threw (gently set) it back in the lye to take care of them. This piece came out so shiny and silver it is almost as if it hasn't been used. I had to double check with a magnet to make sure it wasn't aluminum. I'm curious why this piece came out so silver compared to other pieces? Anyhoo, I think your pretty safe removing paint with the lye. I probably could have taken it out a day ago with the same results, judging by how easily the paint came off.

Posts: 223

Just so you know, I used one pound of lye per 3 gallons of water so I have a pretty strong solution. (maybe 3 and a half)

Matthew Stockinger

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #6 - Apr 2nd, 2012, 9:03pm

Here is the piece that was painted after 3ish days in the lye. No scrubbing required on the bottom side. You can see the before picture in the read "Oh well".

 [kkksmaller2.jpg](#)



Matthew Stockinger

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #7 - Apr 2nd, 2012, 9:04pm

The inside is being a little stubborn. I am realizing I do not have the proper tools for all of the nooks and crannies on these corn pans. If I can get the inside as clean as the outside, I may just rub oil on it and leave it as is. It's so pretty and shiny. I do not believe that is paint remaining on the inside. It appears to be rust and dirt.

Posts: 223

 [kkktop2.jpg](#)



Matthew Stockinger

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #8 - Apr 2nd, 2012, 9:10pm

It's almost spotless, and I had zero flash rust after cleaning?

Posts: 223

 [03.jpg](#)



Jerry Cermack
Global Moderator
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 5810

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #9 - Apr 2nd, 2012, 9:50pm

If, and how fast, either Lye or paint strippers will loosen paint to the point it will come off (especially cast iron) depends on the type of paint that was used.

I've had some that lye wouldnt affect it after weeks, and it also took several days for it to turn loose of cast iron with the Electro.

If you use a regular paint stripper, be sure and get one with Methylene Chloride in it (MC). You can put the piece in a plastic trash bag to keep the MC from evaporating and it will work faster. MC wont melt plastic. The EPA has forced onto the market several Non-MC strippers, but they take a lot longer to work, and not at all on some types of paint, or other finishes.

I've run into some paints/finishes that almost take dynamite to get it off. 😊

Ken Gilbertsen
Ex Forum Member

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #10 - Apr 3rd, 2012, 12:01am

Quote from Matthew Stockinger on Apr 2nd, 2012, 9:10pm:
It's almost spotless, and I had zero flash rust after cleaning?

Matthew, that piece looks really good. I will let mine soak in the lye another day or 2 to see what kind of results it gives. I'll also continue to electro the other half to see if that is productive. Good luck with that corn mold, it has quite a nice finish to it just like it is.

Ken

Ken Gilbertsen
Ex Forum Member

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #11 - Apr 3rd, 2012, 12:04am

Quote from Jerry Cermack on Apr 2nd, 2012, 9:50pm:

If, and how fast, either Lye or paint strippers will loosen paint to the point it will come off (especially cast iron) depends on the type of paint that was used.

I've had some that lye wouldnt affect it after weeks, and it also took several days for it to turn loose of cast iron with the Electro.

If you use a regular paint stripper, be sure and get one with Methylene Chloride in it (MC). You can put the piece in a plastic trash bag to keep the MC from evaporating and it will work faster. MC wont melt plastic. The EPA has forced onto the market several Non-MC strippers, but they take a lot longer to work, and not at all on some types of paint, or other finishes.

I've run into some paints/finishes that almost take dynamite to get it off. 😊

Jerry, I am hoping that I don't run into those kinds of problems with this piece. But if it comes to it, I'll be sure to look for stripper with Methylene Chloride - could be tough to find in Chicago, the city that has outlawed spray paint to stop all graffiti forever...

Thanks,
Ken

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

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #12 - Apr 3rd, 2012, 1:08pm

The word "paint" has a lot of different meanings. From water based to epoxy and many more. All have a different chemical that will dissolve/remove them. In either case, that is a very good job on that corn stick pan.

Posts: 5348

Ken Gilbertsen
Ex Forum Member

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #13 - Apr 3rd, 2012, 2:28pm

Well, I have been hitting both sides of the waffle iron with ZipStrip all morning, and it is tough going. I may hit them a couple more times, and then I think they'll go into the lye bath for an extended stay. There seems to be 2 coats of paint - a rust colored paint covered with a dark blue/black top coat. I haven't even started on the base...

Cheryl Watson
Forum Administrator
WAGS member
★★★★★

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #14 - Apr 3rd, 2012, 2:33pm

Ouch... sounds like a primer base coat AND something else on top.... keep us posted! 😊

Posts: 4009

Jerry Cermack
Global Moderator
WAGS member
★★★★★

Collector

Posts: 5810

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #15 - Apr 3rd, 2012, 3:19pm

Quote from Ken Gilbertsen on Apr 3rd, 2012, 2:28pm:

Well, I have been hitting both sides of the waffle iron with ZipStrip all morning, and it is tough going. I may hit them a couple more times, and then I think they'll go into the lye bath for an extended stay. There seems to be 2 coats of paint - a rust colored paint covered with a dark blue/black top coat. I haven't even started on the base...

Ken.....Are you coating them with ZipStrip and letting them set very long? If ZipStrip hasnt changed, it does contain Methylene Chloride. I'd slather it on liberally, tie it up in a plastic trash bag to retard evaporation of the key ingredient, MC, and let it set. Add more stripper if it appears to be drying up. Most strippers have a wax in them to help retard evaporation, but covering a piece with plastic is better. Let the Stripper do the work with the least amount of elbow grease. It takes time for it to break down some types of paint, and as I've mentioned, your dealing with an unknown on what type of paint it is and even ZipStrip might take a long time to break it down....if it does.

On some really tough coatings on metal, I've used what they call Aircraft Grade Paint Stripper.

I suppose if our resident John Deere man, Will, happens to read this he might give us his experience at stripping original John Deere paint..... 😊

Ken Gilbertsen
Ex Forum Member

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #16 - Apr 3rd, 2012, 4:26pm

I'm making some progress, slow, but it is progress. I have been re-applying in between cleanings and it seems to help a bit. One thing is for sure - I will not* be buying any more painted iron! I was just getting online to see if there's somebody in Chicago that does walnut blasting.

Ken

*(Unless it's a REALLY nice piece.)

Jerry Cermack
Global Moderator
WAGS member
★★★★★

Collector

Posts: 5810

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #17 - Apr 3rd, 2012, 4:44pm

Quote from Ken Gilbertsen on Apr 3rd, 2012, 4:26pm:

I'm making some progress, slow, but it is progress. I have been re-applying in between cleanings and it seems to help a bit.

If you leave the stripper on long enough, you can tell its working because it will soften and/or wrinkle the paint, making it easier to get off. I you dont leave it on long enough, your wasting a lot of elbow grease. I'd apply the stripper, wrap it up, and leave it over night at least. If it shows signs of reacting on the paint, then I'd put on some more stripper right over what you have on it, wrap it up again, and let it set some more. It takes a lot of patience to let the stripper do what it was designed to do on some paints like enamels and some primer paints.

Ken Gilbertsen
Ex Forum Member

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #18 - Apr 3rd, 2012, 5:04pm

Jerry, I have been working a little harder than necessary I guess, because I've been letting the stripper stay put for about 40 minutes at a time, thinking I'm doubling what the directions say. Overnight's a whole different story! I'll wrap 'em up and set 'em aside overnight and see what happens in the morning. At this point I'm more than happy to give that a shot. Thanks for the suggestion!

Ken

Cheryl Watson
Forum Administrator
WAGS member
★★★★★

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #19 - Apr 3rd, 2012, 10:36pm

Ken and Jerry,
After I posted the ZIP STRIP recommendation, I went and did some research and apparently they have changed Zip

Posts: 4009

Strip.... they are now advertising it as MC free 😞😞😞 So... guess it won't work the way it has for the past 30 years..... !@#%#!@#%\$. (I'll have to check the can in the garage, and hoard what little bit I have left!!!)

Jerry Cermack
Global Moderator
WAGS member
★★★★★

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #20 - Apr 3rd, 2012, 10:55pm

Quote from Cheryl Watson on Apr 3rd, 2012, 10:36pm:

Ken and Jerry,

After I posted the ZIP STRIP recommendation, I went and did some research and apparently they have changed Zip Strip.... they are now advertising it as MC free 😞😞😞 So... guess it won't work the way it has for the past 30 years..... !@#%#!@#%\$. (I'll have to check the can in the garage, and hoard what little bit I have left!!!)

Posts: 5810

Ken needs to check the ingredients on his. If it doesnt have MC in it, then it will take longer for sure and may not work well. The EPA has been on a crusade for several years to limit the use of MC. I looked online and according to that, Zip Strip still makes MC strippersand so does Klean Strip.

Ken Gilbertsen
Ex Forum Member

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #21 - Apr 4th, 2012, 12:39am

MC shows as the 1st ingredient. There were several variants of ZipStrip at the store, and all but 1 contain MC. I hope to see real progress in the morning.

Ken

Matthew Stockinger

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #22 - Apr 4th, 2012, 2:44am

I guess I lucked out. I didn't realize paint could be such a pain. Good luck Ken.

Posts: 223

Jerry Cermack
Global Moderator
WAGS member
★★★★★

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #23 - Apr 4th, 2012, 11:44am

Quote from Matthew Stockinger on Apr 4th, 2012, 2:44am:

I guess I lucked out. I didn't realize paint could be such a pain. Good luck Ken.

Collector

Painted cast iron is not normally a pain due to most of it has been painted by an owner and most homes dont have around, the more difficult paints to remove. Thats why most people have good results with painted items in lye.

Posts: 5810

The hardest paints to get off that I've encountered on cast iron items has been on cast iron banks with factory paint. If they've been repainted at some time by an owner, that paint comes off easily, but the factory paint takes a lot longer. When I say a lot longer, I dont mean more elbow grease, I just mean patience and time for lye, strippers, or electro to do the job.

Its just like stripping furniture that has been painted at one time in its past by an owner. The vast majority of the paints you find on furniture are common enamels, and even latex paints, that you might find around a home. The biggest problem with stripping most paints is the fact that they may have more than one coat, and most strippers have to attack one coat at a time. The same thing can occur with painted metals. Many of the painted metals have a primer layer. The claims that a stripper will remove multiple coats can be deceiving.

On the more difficult paints to strip on furniture, scuff sanding the surface will allow the stripper to penetrate the paint layer faster, but I dont see a good way to scuff sand paint on a waffle iron... 😊... but anything is possible I guess.

Ken Gilbertsen
Ex Forum Member

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #24 - Apr 4th, 2012, 2:33pm

UPDATE:

Jerry, the plastic bag technique did a great job - most of the remaining paint has been loosened. I am giving them another day 'in the bag' to hopefully take care of the remaining layer. I also had the base, now known to be a 915B, in the electrolysis overnight after having been hit once with ZipStrip yesterday. Much of the paint has come off the base as well. So I'm feeling confident that this piece will clean up nicely. Thanks for that tip!

Anything special I might need to know when seasoning a waffle iron? Can I do all 3 pieces at one time?

Cheryl Watson
Forum Administrator
WAGS member
★★★★★

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #25 - Apr 4th, 2012, 3:00pm

Patience, Patience, and Fortitude!! 😊

Posts: 4009

Have the following handy: Terry cloth towel, butter knife, (I wrap one layer of towel around blade of butter knife to wipe thru the grids!), pastry brush (for flicking oil drops out of tough spots), and.... QTIPS for Really Tuff spots! Oh... and the usual wadded up paper towels for initial wipe down!!

Do each paddle separately... plan a break in between for 🗡️
When you get done with the paddles, then do the base! (easy part!!)
Then celebrate!!



Jerry Cermack
Global Moderator
WAGS member
★★★★★

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #26 - Apr 4th, 2012, 3:26pm

Quote from Ken Gilbertsen on Apr 4th, 2012, 2:33pm:

UPDATE:

Jerry, the plastic bag technique did a great job - most of the remaining paint has been loosened. I am giving them another day 'in the bag' to hopefully take care of the remaining layer.

Collector

Ken, if your giving the stripper another day on a remaining layer, I hope you put some more stripper on it in the bag. I'm glad it worked out for you, and thats the results you should get with an MC stripper on most paints, giving them time to work.

Posts: 5810

PS.....I'm not up to date on the stripper market anymore. For commercial work, I bought mine in bulk quantity from a company in Tenn. I dont know what your Zip Strip recommends for a wash afterwards. Some require a solvent wash, and some are water wash to remove the residual stripper after stripping.

Ken Gilbertsen
Ex Forum Member

Re: Cleaning painted pieces?

Reply #27 - Apr 4th, 2012, 5:48pm

Jerry, I cleaned and then re-applied stripper for the next round, yes, and this ZipStrip is water rinsable.

Ken