

Wagner & Griswold Society

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

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

Green Waxy residue from Electro? (Read 337 times)

John Arsenault
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 1309

Green Waxy residue from Electro?

Jun 18th, 2012, 10:05am

I have never see this before! Green waxy residue on this small griddle when pulled from electro! Anyone have any idea what would cause this or seen it before?
Washed it off, leaves a green stain on the surface. Its in the vinegar now.
John A

 [Greenwax_1.jpg](#)




John Arsenault
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 1309

Re: Green Waxy residue from Electro?

Reply #1 - Jun 18th, 2012, 10:06am

2

 [Greenwax_2.jpg](#)



George Gardner
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 398

Re: Green Waxy residue from Electro?

Reply #2 - Jun 18th, 2012, 2:31pm

I've yet to ever have that happen..... kind of looks like a petroleum based grease. 😬

Cheryl Watson
Forum Administrator
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 4009

Re: Green Waxy residue from Electro?

Reply #3 - Jun 18th, 2012, 2:57pm

John, are you skipping the LB?? 😬

John Arsenault
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 1309

Re: Green Waxy residue from Electro?

Reply #4 - Jun 18th, 2012, 11:05pm

No spent a week in the lye bath! Came out clean a little rust on the bottom side.
So in the electro. When I took it out this morning pics tell the story!
Washed in power dawn, green stains? In to the vinegar, that took care of the green and its is now waiting for the next seasoning batch.
Have been using electro for a few years on all kinds of stuff and never seen this before? Just plain weird! 😬
John A

Cheryl Watson
Forum Administrator
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 4009

Re: Green Waxy residue from Electro?

Reply #5 - Jun 18th, 2012, 11:13pm

Verrry strange!!!
Time to dump the electro maybe?? and freshen' up the electrolyte??
😬😬😬
(and remove any other possible contaminants?)
and scub down them anodes...(not sure of your set up, 360 or plates or.....)

EWWWWW.... invasion of the GREEN SLIME!! 😬😬😬

Sandy Glenn
Forum Administrator
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 6499

Re: Green Waxy residue from Electro?

Reply #6 - Jun 18th, 2012, 11:17pm

I'm not trying to gross out anyone, but you didn't by chance have some kind of slithery critter get into your electro, did you? That kinda looks like it, um, could be his remains. Sorry... I know that's disgusting.

Cheryl Watson
Forum Administrator
WAGS member
★★★★★

Posts: 4009

Re: Green Waxy residue from Electro?

Reply #7 - Jun 18th, 2012, 11:28pm

Quote from Sandy Glenn on Jun 18th, 2012, 11:17pm:

I'm not trying to gross out anyone, but you didn't by chance have some kind of slithery critter get into your electro, did you? That kinda looks like it, um, could be his remains. Sorry... I know that's disgusting.

DOUBLE EWWW!! A snakey or lizard???

or maybe one of these smileys jumped in there!!!!!!



Oh heavens... I'd be pumpin and dumping that electro asap.....!! 🙄🙄

Sandy Glenn

Forum Administrator
WAGS member



Posts: 6499

Re: Green Waxy residue from Electro?

Reply #8 - Jun 18th, 2012, 11:33pm

I know... it's disgusting.

At one time there was a thread where a former member posted that he found snake parts when he cleaned out his electro. That thread might still be around.

C. Perry Rapier

WAGS member



Posts: 23581

Re: Green Waxy residue from Electro?

Reply #9 - Jun 19th, 2012, 2:14am

Just taking a guess here, but to me, it looks like somebody might have used some type of cooking oil as a coating, and it went rancid and turned green, you know, like when something spoils. Like if you forget something in the fridge, and it turns green, that kind of thing.

Richie Akins

WAGS member



Posts: 89

Re: Green Waxy residue from Electro?

Reply #10 - Jun 19th, 2012, 8:19pm

I just found the same thing in my electro tank. I had a piece that was just about clean but had a little bit of gunk left around the handle. I had just cleaned the tank and put in new washing soda and fired it back up. It had ran for a few hours with no evidence of anything unusual. Checked it just now and there were a couple pieces of the green slime. Is there a way I got too much washing soda in there and caused this? I haven't done anything different and since it was a new batch of water, I know there wasn't any remaining crud left in it(though it was a mess when I cleaned it out).

George Gardner

WAGS member



Posts: 398

Re: Green Waxy residue from Electro?

Reply #11 - Jun 19th, 2012, 8:59pm

What are you guys using for anodes?

Richie Akins

WAGS member



WAGS:
Heartbeat of
Cast Iron Cookware
Collecting

Posts: 89

Re: Green Waxy residue from Electro?

Reply #12 - Jun 19th, 2012, 9:48pm

I am using an old harrow disk. I have used it for a couple of months without incident until last night/today. I know some of you say the tank doesn't have to be cleaned but I have cleaned it and set up a new mixture a couple of times now and everything has been fine until now.

George Gardner

WAGS member



"I hunt
grizz..."

Posts: 398

Re: Green Waxy residue from Electro?

Reply #13 - Jun 19th, 2012, 10:40pm

I'm starting to wonder if it might be the plastic from your tank - some formulations can be slightly conductive. If the positive current is in contact with the tank and your harrow disk is caked up with rust it might be a situation where the tank is starting to "give up" its more conductive materials. I've never heard tell of it but I would suppose it's possible. I work in the paint application industry and it's quite common to see plastic parts sprayed electrostatically and for that to work, the plastic part has to have some conductivity.

John Arsenault

WAGS member



"Raider of the
lost Hollow
Ware!"

Posts: 1309

Re: Green Waxy residue from Electro?

Reply #14 - Jun 19th, 2012, 11:40pm

Perry, It spent a week in the lye bath, I would think that would have taken care of any grease/oil. Top looked clean and the bottom had some rust, btw, the Green Slime was only on the top?

Cheryl, brand new tank, setup about 3 weeks ago.

George, My anode is a sheet of 3/16 SS, 24 wide and goes around in the tank about 80%. Tank is 60 gal., blue plastic electrolyte is 100% sodium carbonate 1TBS Per gallon of water, 40 gallons in the tank.

I have another piece in the tank now and will check it in the morning. If the same shows up again? I will dump and start again.

This is the first electro that I have used SS in, My other 2 tanks are scrap iron plates.

Thanks for the advice and help, trying to solve this mystery! 🙄🙄

John A

John Arsenault

WAGS member



Posts: 1309

Re: Green Waxy residue from Electro?

Reply #15 - Jun 20th, 2012, 9:12am

Ok, No green this morning! It is still a mystery?

Small long griddle is seasoned and will post pics when cool.

John A

George Gardner

WAGS member



Posts: 398

Re: Green Waxy residue from Electro?

Reply #16 - Jun 20th, 2012, 3:34pm

John.... glad to hear the problem didn't come back! Makes you think it may be something specific to the individual piece you guys are cleaning. Could be something along the lines of what Perry referred to or maybe some other type of "protective coating" that was applied by a former owner - beeswax, shellac, etc. - that the lye bath didn't touch. Do you have any additional pieces that you know came from the same source? If you do, check 'em over to see if you notice anything a bit different than usual.

Interesting mystery for sure....

Richie Akins

WAGS member



Posts: 89

Re: Green Waxy residue from Electro?

Reply #17 - Jun 24th, 2012, 5:04pm

I might have found the problem. I was using a set of jumper cables

between my charger and my tank. I found a loose connection where the jumper cable wires broke where they connected to the clamp on one end. I have repaired this so I have it running again and will see what I get. So maybe I was getting some type of built up gunk or maybe the washing soda causing a sludge due the negative side just running loose in the water????

I hope the repair solves the problem because I was getting the sludge each time I would run my tank.
