

Where the Perfect Wood Finish Begins!



Finishing Tip #6 - How Often Must I Clean My Apollo Spray Gun and How Do I Do It?

The Big Question-How Often Must I Clean My Apollo Spray Gun? That is the question most frequently asked by Apollo Spray gun owners and potential owners. First, how often? If you are using a catalyzed coating, or a coating that sets up very quickly, clean your Apollo Spray gun as soon as you are done with that spraying session. These coatings have a limited “pot” life and thus may be impossible to clean once dry. If you are using a water based coating or a solvent based coating and you are going to spray again in the next few hours, or even the next day, you don’t need to clean the entire gun. Simply wipe the end of the tip with a solvent filled rag to prevent dried material from blocking the material passage the next day. Then thoroughly clean the spray gun when the job is done.

Second, how do I clean my spray gun? The first step in cleaning your spray gun is to empty the cup, wipe it out and then add solvent or water (depending on the type of material sprayed) to the cup. Shoot the solvent or water through the spray gun until the cup is empty. If you are spraying Lacquer you would use Lacquer thinner for cleaning. For a water based coating the cleaning agent is water.

Once you have rinsed out the inside of the spray gun, you need to remove and clean a few basic parts. Start by removing the needle from the back of the spray gun. Wipe this with Acetone or Lacquer thinner. (Hint) If you regularly switch between solvent and water based coatings, always make sure you rinse your spray gun thoroughly with Acetone. Acetone is both a neutral solvent to Lacquer and waterbased resins and will clean them up thoroughly without leaving an oily residue like Lacquer thinner does. Once you have removed the Needle, remove the Air Cap. Use the provided wrench to take off the Fluid Nozzle. Make sure you clean all parts removed with Acetone or similar solvent. Use a brush to get into the body of the spray gun. Only pay attention to the area’s where the material flows and where the air needs to go. Dry the pieces and put the spray gun back together. Inspect and test the one way air valve and air tube. To test the air valve simply blow through the valve from the black end. If you can feel air flowing through it is fine. If you feel nothing, then replace the valve as it is blocked with material and cannot be cleaned. Inspect the cup gasket to make sure there are no tears or scrapes. If the gasket is not in good shape replace it.

Remember that all the material passages in your Apollo spray gun are marine grade stainless steel so solvent or water is not going to hurt or damage your spray gun in any way. Apollo spray guns are built to last, so make sure you clean your spray gun regularly and it will give you many years of great finishing results.

Apollo Sprayers has a Spray Gun Cleaning Kit to make this task even simpler.