

# TIPS ON CLEANING YOUR SEMI-AUTO HANDGUN

## SAFETY INSPECTION

Safety! Safety! Safety! Safety is always the key. Before starting to clean any firearm you should always check to see if the firearm is loaded. Check the magazine by removing it from the handgun. Once the magazine is out and away from the handgun, then pull the slide back and lock back if possible. This is always a good way to check your handgun.

## PROPER TAKE DOWN OF YOUR FIREARM

Almost all semi-auto handguns have different ways they can be broken down. The best thing is to read your instruction/owners manual for the proper take down procedure. If your handgun does not have a manual then you may obtain one by going to the manufacturer's website and downloading a version of it. Also, taking pictures of the handgun before and while taking down can help with reassembly.

## BASIC CLEANING MATERIALS

Some basic materials that would be good to have while cleaning your handgun would be, a wool mop, bore brush, patch puller, patches, and a cleaning rod. If you are new to handgun cleaning or have multiple calibers of handguns, a cleaning kit such as "Outers" or "Pro Shot" cleaning kits are a good way to go.

## CLEANING SOLUTIONS

There are four cleaning solutions that I would recommend for use. A copper remover/bore cleaner, rust preventive, action cleaner, and part lube. Some manufacturers, Such as "Shooters choice", make a full line of oils and cleaners and number the bottles from the first step to the last.

## LUBRICATION

Lubrication of your semi-auto handgun is very important. You may have heard that over lubrication is a bad thing. The truth is that there is no such thing as over lubrication. I'm not saying that you should use a whole bottle on each handgun, but it is important that your handgun should always be properly lubricated, especially when involving any metal on metal contact points. I would recommend "Gun Slick" Graphite lube to help with this process.

## REASSEMBLY

Reassembly of your handgun is one of the most crucial steps. This step is best done slow so that, you can ensure proper placement of all parts. To ensure proper placement of all parts, you should refer back to your instruction/owners manual. This is where taking pictures of the steps can really come in handy.

## TIME TO FIRE

After you have properly taken down, cleaned, lubricated, and reassembled your handgun, you can enjoy a great day on the range with family and friends, while insuring that you are shooting a properly maintained handgun.

**REMEMBER TO HAVE "FUN", SHOOT "STRAIGHT", AND MOST IMPORTANTLY BE "SAFE"!**

**Tips from Caleb Brunni - Hunting and Gun Department Assistant Buyer**