What should I be doing to clean my WEPS stones?

Posted by JohnHolbrook - 02 Jul 2012 13:46

I have the WEPS system, along with new micro fine ceramics.

Should the stones be cleaned? If so, how often? I've read in this forum that rust could be a problem if water is used to clean the stones?

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Re: What should I be doing to clean my WEPS stones?

Posted by DennisHibar - 02 Jul 2012 13:56

From what I've read, lots of different methods are used. I have been cleaning my diamond stones with water, a tooth brush and a small amount of cleanser. Have done this maybe 6 times, thus far. I pat them dry with a towel then let them air dry before putting them back in my storage trays. No sign of rust so far. For the ceramics, I had been doing the same, but am now following Clay's method of using a soft eraser.

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Re: What should I be doing to clean my WEPS stones?

Posted by Rolex John - 02 Jul 2012 14:03

DennisHibar wrote:

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Is there a link which further elaborates on Clay's use of a soft eraser for the ceramics?

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Re: What should I be doing to clean my WEPS stones?

Posted by mark76 - 02 Jul 2012 14:04

Very good question. And I am still not sure of the best way myself.

I usually clean the diamond stones using liberal amounts of water and a toothbrush. I have read the mail on rust as well, but to be honest, that was the only report I have read of it. I have not experienced it myself. In fact, I often put my diamond stones in the dish washer and they hold up well. (Wicked Edge use a pretty strong glue - 3M tape - for holding the plates. Many other glues would not stand the temperatures of a dish washer. But please only do this at your own risk.) I usually clean the stones after 5-10 sharpening sessions, although I suspect that is far too often.

I have never been able to clean the ceramic stones properly. I use Ajax with a toothbrush, but it doesn't work really well. On other forums people recommend Bartender's stuff (not sure of the exact name, they don't sell it where I live). Apparently this works well because it has oxalic acid as an active compound. I suspect acids work well because they help corrode metal filings left in the stones. And I'm still looking for acids that work well...

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Re: What should I be doing to clean my WEPS stones?
Posted by Rolex John - 02 Jul 2012 14:08

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Thanks guys - it sounds like getting them wet is a non-isssue. Much appreciate the responses. Any other cleaning tips will be appreciated!

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Re: What should I be doing to clean my WEPS stones?
Posted by Monk69bl - 02 Jul 2012 20:29

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Well I have not tried but I would think normal swimming pool acid should work to help clean the ceramic stones. The pool acid is Hydrochloric acid (HCl). You do get them in different strengths and of course with any chemicals wear gloves. Do **NOT** get the HydroFLOURIC acid (HF), as that is VERY VERY dangerous.

Also I think the ones that they sell to clean the steam cleaners could also work. Even vinegar might do the trick. Vinegar is also acidic.

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Re: What should I be doing to clean my WEPS stones?
Posted by BassLakeDan - 02 Jul 2012 21:02

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Monk69bl wrote:

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what you want is H2SO4 which is an oxidizer. HCl is not.. Acetic acid (C2H4O2) will work but slowly.. the reaction you want is oxidization reduction of the iron. Its all very dangerous on the garage / hobby level, and best to just forget the whole thing. sorry I ever mentioned it in the first place.

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Re: What should I be doing to clean my WEPS stones?

Posted by Monk69bl - 02 Jul 2012 21:13

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Yep H2SO4 in it's concentrated form can be bad, cos when you add it to water it can get very hot and or "splash/jump" out. H2SO4 can be found in car batteries and if you have ever got that on your clothes you can kiss those good bye. Always add acid to water while stirring the water. This helps to prevents the hydrophilic "jumping out" of H2SO4. I agree 100% not for the hobby/garage level.

Try vinegar 1st as that is prob the safest.

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Re: What should I be doing to clean my WEPS stones?

Posted by BassLakeDan - 02 Jul 2012 21:21

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Monk69bl wrote:

.. I agree 100% not for the hobby/garage level.

Try vinegar 1st as that is prob the safest.

I agree, vinegar, Acetic acid (C2H4O2) will work but slowly.. I tried to edit my last post , but i see not in time. I tried Distilled white vinegar once, but it took 36 hrs in a hot crock pot, so not real practical..

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Re: What should I be doing to clean my WEPS stones?

Posted by wickededge - 02 Jul 2012 21:25

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I just used Soft Scrub spray foam on the Micro-Fine ceramics and it worked well. I haven't tried with the Superfine stones.

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