

GUNNYSACK

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OGRE'S: ENVIROCLEAN FA

One of the hardest parts of my job is to evaluate cleaning products. There is so much hype — and sometimes just plain BS — it's tough to evaluate the claims of miracle cures and wondrous things. Still the products come with regularity and I duly try them, but lacking a complete analytical chemistry laboratory and months for testing I have little proof. So here is a totally subjective look at Enviroclean. It works and does what they claim.

Today's environmental concerns have brought big changes to gun cleaning because so many of the chemicals that worked so well are now thought to be bad for you. Enviroclean is reported to be biodegradable, less flammable (flash point >200F), and virtually odorless. That one I can objectively say is true.

But the thing making me pay attention was how it worked on some serious fouling. I shoot a S&W Model 625 quite a bit with handloaded cast bullets and I'm sure you've seen the crud that builds up under the top strap. There's some lead, bullet lube and powder residue. It turns everything black. Let's just say I had neglected cleaning the 625 for some time and the top strap had a substantial layer of goo. Using a medicine dropper I put a puddle of cleaner on the top strap and left it for 10 minutes or so. When I wiped it with a clean patch the majority of the crud went away with ease. It did take another application and some gentle brushing to return the gun to a satisfactory level of cleanliness, but the job was easier than usual for sure.

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