

IPBA Round Table/Workshop Perfume Bottle Cleaning and Removing Stuck or Broken Stoppers

Maggie and Bill Hoehn
Saturday May 3, 2008

Cleaning Perfume Bottles

- Cleaning Agents (Use Mildest Solution Possible)
 - Warm Water And Soap
 - Vinegar And Water
 - Isopropyl Alcohol (Rubbing Alcohol)
 - Denture Cleaners
 - Denatured Alcohol (Ethyl Alcohol - Ethanol)
 - Finger Nail Polish Remover (Non-acetone)
 - Toilet Bowl Cleaners, 409
 - Lime/Rust Removers

Note: Always Use Eye Protection, Gloves, Rubber or Plastic Sink Protectors or Towel, Funnels, Etc. To Protect Yourself And Your Investment



Cleaning Perfume Bottles with Labels



- Pour Out Any Remaining Perfume (Left In Over Time Can Harm The Interior Surface)
- When Possible, Remove Labels And Reapply After Cleaning, Otherwise Protect With Paper Towel
- Use A Small Funnel To Fill Bottle With Cleaning Agent When Original Labels Are Intact
- Use Mild Cleaning Solutions Such As Alcohol or Diluted Vinegar To Clean Around Labels Using A Q-tip

Cleaning Perfume Bottles (cont'd)

- Difficult To Clean or 'Sick' Bottles
 - Small Bottle Brush or Soft Tooth Brush Using One Of The Previously Mentioned Chemicals
 - Small Glass, Plastic, Copper Shot, or Stainless Steel Balls, BB's or Sand And Chemicals Swirled Around Inside Bottle. Use of Aluminum Oxide, Tin Oxide or 'Soft Scrub' with Water Can be Quite Effective (Caution: Lead Shot May Discolor Interior)
 - Fine And Extra Fine Rock Polishing Compounds With Plastic or Glass Media and Water, Use Rubber Bottle Stopper And Rotate Axially Inside Padded Rock Tumbler For Several Weeks. (Note: Do Not Use Medium or Coarse Polishing Compound or Bottles Will Be Scratched)
 - Send Bottle To A Professional (~\$15 - \$30)



Cleaning Filigree

- Copper or Brass Cleaner (i.e. 'Tarni-Shield') on Ugly Tarnish. Use a Q-tip and Wash with a Mild Detergent and Soft Tooth or Makeup Brush to Remove Embedded Polish. Buff with Cotton Cloth to Bring Out the Glow.
- Bob's Method of Last Resort
 - '0000' Steel Wool – Use Little Pieces, Dime Size and Rub Lightly. Follow with Brass Cleaner.



Cleaning Atomizers

- Remove Stubborn Hardware By Turning The Bottle Upside Down In a Glass with Enough Alcohol To Cover Only The Metal Hardware. Cover With Plastic Wrap And Allow To Soak Several Hours
- Drain Liquid Out of The Stem. Soak Tubing in Alcohol if Needed. Pump Until No Liquid Sprays Out.
- Brighten Gold Plated Hardware with 'Top Job' or Similar Cleaner; DO NOT RUB!
- Clean Base Separately

Analyzing Stuck Perfume Stoppers

- Reasons For Stuck Stoppers
 - Old Perfume Residue
 - Installed With A 'Heavy Hand'
 - Intentionally Glued In Place
 - Stuck Due To Temperature Differences When Assembled

Removing Stuck Perfume Stoppers

- Warnings – Never Do The Following or Risk Breaking The Stopper or Bottle Neck:
 - Never Attempt To Twist A Stuck Stopper
 - Never Attempt To Wrench Loose
 - Never Try To Tap Out A Stuck Stopper
 - Never Apply Extreme Heat or Cold Rapidly

Removing Stuck Perfume Stoppers (continued)

- Warm Water Method



- If you have a stopper that is stuck in your perfume bottle, or any other type of beauty product you can get it out by using a bowl of warm water. Put the bottle in the warmed water for a few minutes and the glass will expand just a bit so you can get the stopper out. Be sure not to use extremely hot water which could break the glass.
- Alternate Method: Using a stream of warm water from the faucet, place the neck of the bottle into the stream and rotate the bottle while supporting the stopper in the other hand. Try to keep the stopper cool and gently twist occasionally until loose.

- Salt Recipe



- If your stopper is still stuck in the bottle, use a mixture of two teaspoons of alcohol, one teaspoon of glycerin and one teaspoon of salt. Shake this mixture and then pour it over the stopper to loosen the area where the neck and the stopper meet.

Removing Stuck Perfume Stoppers (continued)

- Alcohol Method



- Use An Eye Dropper And Puddle Alcohol Around The Mouth Area Where The Stopper Enters The Bottle
- Re-Apply Often Since The Alcohol Will Evaporate And Cover With A Piece of Plastic Wrap.



- The Alcohol Will Gradually Seep Between The Stopper And The Neck.
- It Should Then Be Easy To Remove The Stopper

- Rope Method



- Have 1 Person Hold The Bottle And Stopper. A Second Person Needs To Wrap 2-3 Turns Of Small Rope Around The Neck Of The Bottle And Slide The Rope Back And Forth Around The Neck To Produce Heat. After Heating, The First Person Will Then Gently Twist The Stopper To Loosen.

Removing Stuck Perfume Stoppers (continued)

- Olive Oil Method

- Pour A Small Amount Of Olive Oil Around The Area Where The Stopper Enters The Bottle
- Leave Bottle To Stand For A Couple Of Hours, During Which Time The Oil Will Gradually Seep Between The Stopper And The Neck.
- It Should Then Be Easy To Remove The Stopper
- Make Sure To Thoroughly Wash Off All Traces Of The Olive Oil



Removing Stuck Perfume Stoppers (continued)

- Penetrating Oil Method

- Pour A Small Amount Of Penetrating Oil Around The Area Where The Stopper Enters The Bottle
- Leave Bottle To Stand For A Couple Of Hours, During Which Time The Oil Will Gradually Seep Between The Stopper And The Neck.
- It Should Then Be Easy To Remove The Stopper
- Make Sure To Thoroughly Wash Off All Traces Of The Penetrating Oil



Removing Stuck Perfume Stoppers (continued)

- Bill's 'Method Of Last Resort' (Empty Bottles Only)
 - Use Eye Protection, Gloves, Properly Ventilated Area Free Of Any Flammable Materials, And Padded Work Bench
 - Use Candle Or Propane Torch With Very Low Flame
 - Carefully Rotate Bottle While Evenly Applying Flame To Neck. Goal Is To Heat And Slightly Expand Neck To Free Stopper. (Do Not Overheat)

• Thermal expansion coefficient ~ $8 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$ (PPMC) or .000008/ $^{\circ}\text{C}$ or .0008/100C



Removing Broken Perfume Stoppers

- Case: Stopper Broken Off At Neck And Firmly Stuck In Bottle

- Bill's Method

- Use Eye Protection, Ear Protection, And Gloves
- Use Electric Pencil Engraver (Wen Model 21 or Equivalent)
- Turn On Unit And Carefully Chip Away Stopper Taking Care Not To Touch Inside Bottle Neck
- Be Patient And Not Aggressive Until Stopper Is Totally Removed



Final Thoughts About Cleaning Perfume Bottles And Stoppers

- Allow Bottles And Stoppers To Fully Dry Before Re-assembly
- Never Re-Assemble Bottles And Stoppers That Are At Different Temperatures or Unintentional Sticking May Occur
- Use A Small Amount of Vaseline on Dowel To Prevent Sticking

WE CLEAN CLOUDY GLASS
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

CRUET	\$35-40.00
VINEGAR & OIL	\$35-40.00
COLOGNE	\$35-40.00
DECANTER	\$40-75.00
SYRUP	\$35-45.00
WATER BOTTLE	\$40-45.00
COCKTAIL SHAKER	\$40-45.00
SALT SHAKER (SINGLE)	\$30.00
SALT SHAKER (PAIR)	\$50.00
WATER PITCHER	\$45-75.00
VASES (UNDER 10IN.)	\$30-45.00

ALL OTHERS WRITE FOR QUOTE
ALL GLASS CLEANED AT YOUR RISK
ALLOW 8-9 WEEKS REDELIVERY
PRICES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT
NOTICE

KIM CARLISLE & ASSOCIATES
28220 LAMONG ROAD
SHERIDAN IN 46069
1-317-758-5767

kcarlis@worldnet.att.net

2007