

KEEP YOUR 1911 WORKING UNTIL 2111

THE DEFINITIVE GUN-CARE GUIDE



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INTRODUCTION

Many people have friends or mentors to guide them in the care and maintenance of their new firearms. This document was created for those that enjoy self-help or do not have mentors to guide them.

Your Rock Island Armory (RIA) 1911 is a machine, and, like any machine, receiving consistent and proper care will extend its life and reliability. An RIA 1911 can be functional and reliable for a century or more.

In this e-book, you will find guidance for proper care and maintenance, including:

- MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE
- PRODUCTS
- CLEANING INSTRUCTION
- LUBRICATION INSTRUCTION
- MAGAZINE MAINTENANCE

MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

REMEMBER: Before working on any firearm, make sure the magazine is empty and removed. Also make sure the chamber is empty and the firearm is unloaded.

Taking proper and timely care of your 1911 is a key factor in extending life, reliability and accuracy. If you are new to owning a 1911, you should learn to properly field-strip the handgun. Rock Island Armory has created a great instructional video on disassembling one of its own 1911s.

CHECK IT OUT!

CLEANING SCHEDULE:

In the cleaning schedule, you will notice “routine cleaning” and “thorough cleaning.” This will be discussed more fully in the upcoming “Cleaning Instruction” section. Meanwhile, here’s a rundown of recommended scheduled cleaning:

	ROUTINE CLEANING	THOROUGH CLEANING
LEAD BULLETS	300 - 500 rounds	5,000 Rounds
JACKETED BULLETS	500 - 700 rounds	5,000 Rounds
CARRY PISTOL	Once a month	Once a month

SPRING REPLACEMENT:

Ensuring your 1911 regularly receives new factory spec springs is key to proper function and will reduce risk of failure. These replacement parts can be purchased from Advanced Tactical.

	COMPACT SIZE	MID-SIZE	FULL-SIZE
RECOIL SPRING	800 +/- 1,000 ROUNDS	5,000 +/- ROUNDS	5,000 +/- ROUNDS
MAIN SPRING	800 +/- 1,000 ROUNDS	5,000 +/- ROUNDS	5,000 +/- ROUNDS

[VIEW WEBSITE](#)

PRODUCTS

Every degree of shooter, both new and experienced, will proclaim he or she uses the best products for firearm care.

The bottom line is that most products produced for the purposes of firearm care will get the job done. Taking the advice of a friend or mentor is a great way to relate to someone else's experience. Many shooters get started on the advice of friends or mentors and then venture out to discover what they like for themselves based on price, availability and function.

There are three key products that are required to maintain your 1911.



1

BORE CLEANER

Bore cleaner is used for removing powder, lead and metal fouling from the barrel with the use of a bore brush and cloth patches. A quality bore cleaner will also leave a rust-preventative residue for storage and long-term protection.

TRY THIS: HOPPE'S NO. 9 POWDER SOLVENT

PRODUCTS



GUN OIL

Gun oil is essential for lubricating your 1911 for proper function. Equally important to lubrication, gun oil is used for rust prevention and assists with future maintenance by providing a carbon-resistant layer on the metal of your firearm, acting as a shield from residue. This product will also make for quicker cleaning, as long as a proper schedule is followed.

Select an oil that will act as both lubrication oil and coating oil for preservation and weather protection. Many enthusiasts and professional shooters also recommend using an oil/lube specific for lubrication alone. As long as you follow the maintenance schedule suggested earlier in this e-book, your oil will easily accomplish what is needed.

TRY THIS: HOPPE'S NO. 9 GUN OIL



CLEANING KIT

A proper cleaning kit appropriate for your 1911 will include the items listed below. There are many great cleaning kits in the marketplace that will include these items, along with everything you need to clean most every firearm in your inventory. A good cleaning kit is a great investment in preserving the life and function not just of your 1911 but of all your firearms.

CHECK FOR:

- Bore brush sized for the caliber of barrel you will be cleaning
- Cleaning rod long enough to extend the bore brush completely
- Toothbrush
- Dry patches

CLEANING

Consistent and scheduled cleaning has a tremendous impact on firearm accuracy, function and reliability. This section includes the most basic and effective directions for cleaning your 1911. There are many tricks of the trade and opinions from industry experts regarding how to clean your firearms and with what products. As you gain more experience, you may find a new way of doing things or discover a product that you like more than what others recommended. Just remember the most important factor in your 1911 standing the test of time is being consistently cleaned and lubed.

ROUTINE CLEANING: Includes fieldstripping your 1911 by removing the magazine from the frame and the barrel from the slide.

THOROUGH CLEANING: Includes fully disassembling your 1911.

[CHECK OUT THIS VIDEO](#)

NOTE: The following instructions apply for both routine and thorough cleaning - just keep in mind how many small parts need to be soaked and brushed clean, as well as areas in the slide and frame that require thorough cleaning.

BARREL:

Thoroughly cleaning your barrel will have the greatest impact in continued accuracy for your firearm. This will also protect your firearm's barrel from rust and pitting while in storage.

1. Run a patch soaked in bore-cleaning solvent through the bore.
2. Run a bore brush through the barrel from the breach multiple times.
3. Run a dry patch through the barrel as many times as it takes for the patch to come out clean.

CLEANING

SLIDE:

Cleaning your slide can be as simple as, "If it looks dirty, keep cleaning." Many shooters use cotton swabs and toothpicks to get into small areas. A good test of slide cleanliness is to wipe any spot with a white rag or toothpick to test if it comes out clean.

1. Soak the slide in mineral spirits or dry cleaning solvent. (NOTE: These will not damage the grips or finish of your firearm.)
2. Use a toothbrush to clean all internal and external portions of the slide.
3. Be sure to clean the rails thoroughly.

FRAME:

To clean your frame, you will essentially follow the same steps as in slide cleaning. When you can wipe clean any portion of your frame with a white rag or cotton swab and shows no residue, you know it is clean.

1. Soak the slide in mineral spirits or dry cleaning solvent. (NOTE: These will not damage the grips or finish of your firearm.)
2. Use a toothbrush to clean all internal and external portions of the slide.
3. Be sure to clean the rails thoroughly.

SMALL PARTS:

Use your toothbrush to clean the small parts. You can test cleanliness visually or by wiping with a white cloth. Many of your small parts simply need a light brushing.

REMEMBER: With both routine and thorough cleaning, the key factor is to recognize where there is grit and residue and brush it clean. You may notice that the finish of your 1911 may have a white or ash residue on it after being cleaned with mineral spirits or dry cleaning solvent. This is normal and is not damaging to your firearm.

BONUS TIP: We recommend having a quality air compressor. It will assist with dislodging residue and grit from areas even toothpicks and dental tools cannot reach. It also helps blow-dry mineral spirits or dry-cleaning solvent off of the firearm.

LUBRICATION

Lubricating your 1911 properly and on schedule will have the greatest impact on reliability. Proper lubrication is also a major factor in the preservation of your 1911 in keeping rust at bay.



SLIDE AND FRAME:

As noted in the “Cleaning” section, your slide and frame will look as if there is a residue or film remaining after being cleaned in mineral spirits or dry cleaning solvent. This did not harm your firearm and is normal to the process. Apply some gun oil to the outside of the slide and frame at multiple locations. Take a clean rag and wipe the oil on the outside of the slide and frame. This will remove/subdue the film and leave a protective coating on your firearm. Additionally, apply one drop in front of the locking recesses of the slide, adding a thin film down each frame rail cut. Apply a heavy film on the outside of the barrel wherever it contacts the brushing and add one drop to the bottom of each slide stop.



TRIGGER:

Apply a thin film of lube to the top and bottom of the pad and to the left, right and back sides of the bow.



MAGAZINE CATCH

Apply one drop in the exposed spring area. Do this just before inserting the assembly in the frame.



SEAR/DISCONNECTOR

Apply one drop in between the sear and the disconnector once they are installed in the frame. Apply a light film on the bottom angle of the disconnector where the sear spring resides.



HAMMER

Apply a small amount on both hammer hooks. Apply a thin film on the flat sides of the hammer.



MAINSRING HOUSING:

Apply one drop inside the hammer spring hole before inserting the spring.

SLIDE-STOP PLUNGER

Apply a light film on each plunger.



THUMB SAFETY

Apply one drop in the shaft hole before installing the safety. This will lubricate both the thumb and grip safety.



FIRING PIN

Apply one drop on the side of the firing pin spring before inserting it in the slide.



FRAME

Apply a thin line of lube down each slide rail and one drop in the disconnecter hole.



FULL-LENGTH GUIDE ROD

Apply a thin film to its outside diameter.



MAGAZINE MAINTENANCE

A majority of 1911 malfunctions are due to defective magazines. Many people treat their magazines poorly, resulting in dents or bent lips. They also often keep their magazines in dirty bags or drop them on the ground, allowing dirt, sand and grime to get into the magazines. Over time, poor care of this nature will reduce the effectiveness of your magazine and will cause feeding in your firearm.

TRY ANOTHER:

The first thing one should do when he or she experiences a malfunction is to try another magazine. This is an easy test as long as the ammo that is being used is proven in the gun. If using many different types of ammo, it can be a combination of ammo and magazines.



MAGAZINE MAINTENANCE

TAKE CARE:

That being said, taking care of your magazines will have a great impact on your 1911 functioning properly for a century. Many in the industry suggest keeping two sets of magazines – one set for practice and one set for carry and defense.

- With your practice set, simply handle with care. Set them down versus tossing them around. Keep them in a sealed bag or in magazine pouches when not in use or transporting. Avoid keeping them sitting out in dusty and moist areas when in storage.
- With your carry or defensive set, handle with the same care. However, a carry or defensive set is often kept loaded in case of need. Keeping your magazines constantly loaded will reduce the spring's coil tension over time. It is suggested to switch your core carry/defensive magazine with another from your carry/defensive set on a monthly basis, alternating every other month and allowing one of them to be empty.

BUY ANOTHER:

For those that shoot often, eventually you will come across a faulty magazine due to neglectful care, accidents or poor manufacturing. When this happens, throw it away and buy yourself a brand new one. You will save yourself frustration and continue to enjoy your 1911.



CONCLUSION

The 1911 pistol is a proven fighting pistol that has helped win wars and save lives for decades. Supported by its great success in combat, the 1911 pistol has become a favorite firearm among millions of shooting enthusiasts all over the world thanks to its reliability, durability and accuracy.

For those that would like to enjoy the great security and fun of their Rock Island Armory 1911, follow these care steps and considerations. You will be left with a family heirloom that will last through the generations and will always be good for an old-fashioned day of fun at the range or a competition win.