

KEG CLEANING TIPS

1. Completely disassemble everything.
 - Use a wrench to remove the gas/liquid fittings. Finding the correct deep fitting socket is a good investment.
 - Reach into the keg and push up on the dip tubes, pulling them out. Dip tubes on the gas side vary from $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length. The liquid dip tube will extend to the bottom of the keg.
 - Take the removed gas/liquid fittings and set them on a work bench. Using a very small screwdriver, press down on the center until the poppet valve pops out. Some older designs only have a compression fit and will fall out when you remove the fitting from the keg. If you have that kind, be sure the new O-rings on the dip tubes match EXACTLY.
 - Take the big O-ring off the lid. Also unscrew the pressure relief valve and remove it from the lid.
2. For used kegs (ones that have not been reconditioned)--- Dispose of all rubber parts and buy new ones.
 - 2 O-rings on the gas/liquid fittings
 - 2 O-rings under the gas/liquid dip tubes, and
 - 1 big O-ring on the lid
3. Throw all removed parts into a pot and boil the crap out of them.
4. The long liquid dip tube will need to be cleaned separately with a tubing brush or other improvised scrubbing tool. This part should be cleaned EVERY time you use the keg.
5. Fill the keg with cleanser and water and give it a good scrub, especially on the underside of the top lid. If the keg was only partially filled, the fill line will need some extra elbow grease. Rinse well.
 - Scrubbers: Green scrubbies and Scotch Brite pads will scratch stainless steel. Do not use these. Instead, use one of those recycled plastic scrunchie things, or a simple sponge.
 - Cleansers: PBW is best but is not cheap. TSP is good but wear gloves. Bleach is tolerable but only for short time periods – not overnight.
6. Fill the keg with water and add a cup of baking soda. Let it sit open for a few days. This should evacuate any stale aromas. Dump and rinse.
7. Reassemble the keg. The gas fitting will have either a multi-facet design, or there will be notches cut in the sides at the bottom where the wrench touches.
8. Fill the keg with water and add sanitizer such as Idophor. Press down on the poppet valves on the gas/liquid fitting. This will release some pressure and sanitizer will rush up the tube. Put the lid on the keg and add some gas to seal the lid on tight. Let it sit for 10 minutes.
9. Set the keg upright and put gas and a tap on the keg. Dispense the sanitizer through the liquid line.