

Die Maintenance

When it comes to die maintenance there are many different opinions, ranging from never to after each reloading session. I tend to Q-tip the necks, die bodies and clean the expander buttons of my dies after each 200 rounds. I will also sonic clean my dies after each 1000 or so rounds and here are several reasons why.

1. In most cases we must use case lubricants to resize our brass, a little of which is always left inside our dies and since dies are not typically stored in dust free environments these lubricants tend to capture dust and other air bourn particles like magnets.
2. Our brass even when cleaned prior to sizing often shed minute particles of brass which also get trapped in these lubricants.
3. Our bullets when being seated also tend to shed minute particles of brass which also get trapped in these lubricants.
4. Tumbling media also gets stuck in our cases and get transferred to our dies when we resize.
5. Our hands/gloves tend to pick up all of the above and transfer them to all components that eventually end up in our dies.
6. And finally let us not forget good old Mother Nature with her changing humidity.

The short list above is only a snapshot of things that affect die performance; you should keep in mind that for the reloader accurate ammunition begins with good components assembled with good dies. A simple scratch inside a case neck can be the difference between the X and the 10 ring.

Dies! Like gun barrels are made of metal and tend to rust, but if cared for can last a lifetime.

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