

Checking & Cleaning Bunsen burner

At least once a year it is important to check the state of your Bunsen burners and to give them a thorough clean.

To do this, you

1. Take your Bunsen burner apart:

If the Barrel does not turn, stick a long screwdriver through the upper two air vents and use it as a lever. If that does not work, use some WD-40 to lubricate the thread.

Note: keep all parts of one Bunsen together as it may be not possible to re-assemble mixed and matched parts.



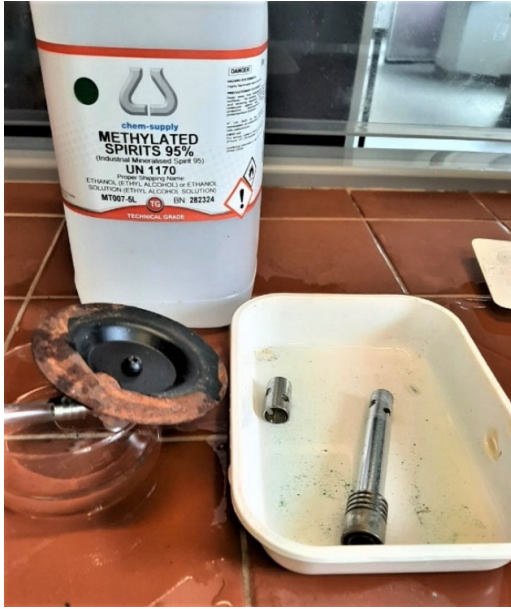
2. Wash and soak all parts

Place the base upside down into a crystallisation dish (or evaporating dish) with some methylated spirit, so that at least the hole is soaking. Clean the barrel and top tube with a test tube brush in soapy warm water. Wear gloves (chemicals inside barrel) and gloves (splashes once you pull out the brush)



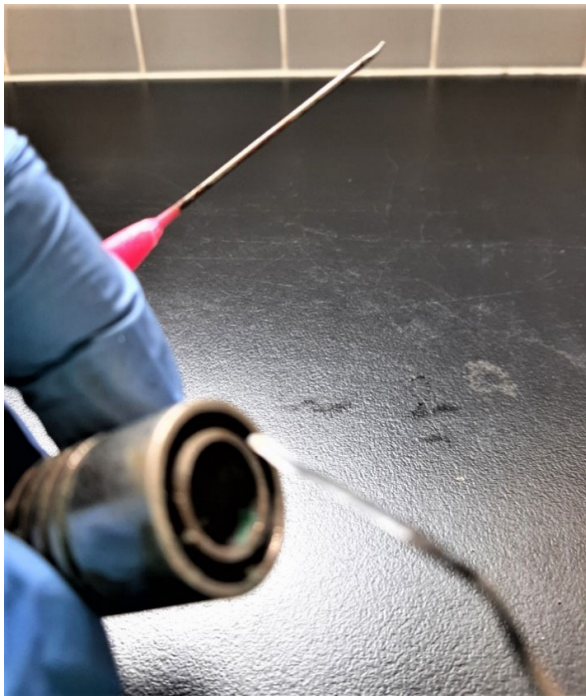
Pour some Methylated Spirits (= Metho= denatured alcohol) or Acetone (more expensive) into a small dish

big enough for the barrel. Soak the barrel in there for a few minutes. Wash and wipe the short top tube. The Antiseptic wipes are quite handy for that.



3. Detail the delicate parts

It is important to get the residual chemicals and dirt out of the mouth of the tube otherwise it will block the gas distribution holes. After some soaking in water and alcohol it often comes loose and can be scraped out with a pair of tweezers or the pointy end of a probe or sewing needle. Bang it upside down onto the bench a couple of times.



WARNING:

If you come across a broken barrel like that or one with a still closed up crack-throw it out ! Gas can escape here.



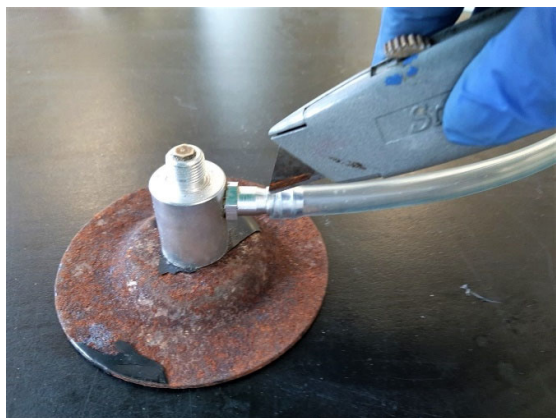
4. Clean the Gas jets/ the hole at the base

The hole on top of the base is often crusted up or greenish. Use a scraper, probe, spatula, and some sandpaper to bring it back to the goldish/ brass or silvery colour after soaking it in metho. Then use the needle or pointy probe and stick it into the hole to make sure it's open for the gas to get through. If it is blocked it may escape somewhere else and cause a hazardous gas situation.



5. Check the tubing

It is also important to make sure that the tubing (silicon) is in good order. Check for bends, holes, cuts, or melted parts. Any gas escaping through the tubing can result in an airborne fire. Pull it off or cut it off with a Stanley knife. Cut off the faulty part or replace the entire tubing. Rinse the tubing as well and hang up to dry if necessary.



6. Dry all parts and re-assemble

Once all parts are dry, re-assemble them. Use a small amount of WD-40 or other lubricant on the base' throat or collar if it is tight but wait a while before lighting the burner.

Make sure the collar is the right way around, so the vent holes match up.

Use some Petroleum jelly to push the tubing onto the gas inlet if the tubing is too tight.

