

Gradiance Yarns

How to Clean your Spinning Wheel

MATERIALS:

1 x dirty spinning wheel
1 x sheet
4 x cloths (1x dusting, 1x damp, 1x dry, 1x waxing)
1 x pair of tweezers
Some cotton buds or pipe cleaners
A little water
Beeswax Paste (or wax as per your manufacturer recommendation)

STEPS:

1. Put down a Sheet

This isn't quite a necessary for a regularly cleaned wheel, but for dirty wheels place a sheet down first. This makes cleaning up after so much easier!

2. Remove...

...the drive band, flyer, bobbins and mother-of-all wherever possible. This will make cleaning the rest of the wheel and the parts much easier.

3. Dusting

Working from the top down, give the wheel a dusting with a soft cloth. On particularly dusty wheels, if you work bottom up you may find you need to dust the bottom a second time! For significant amounts of dust, a vacuum cleaner with a brush attachment may be used on the larger surface areas. Look out for any fibre that has become entangled that needs to be removed. Tweezers can help with this.

4. Sticky Bits!

A damp cloth will help remove more stubborn sticky areas. Just make sure you dry the area when you've removed it. For harder to reach nooks and crannies a damp cotton swab may help.

5. Accessories

Time to move on to the flyer, bobbins and mother-of-all, following the above steps for dusting and any sticky bits. Look out for any fibre that has become entangled too! Pipe cleaners and cotton swabs can get inside your bobbins.



6. Orifice

Small bits of fibre, dust, and oil can accumulate in here. A slightly damp cotton swab can be used to clean inside the orifice. But don't forget to use a dry cotton swab after to dry it again.

7. Grooves

Generally I use a damp cotton swab to run around inside the grooves on the flyer and bobbins, and then a dry one to dry it off. But a toothbrush would work too.

8. Underneath

Don't forget the undersides of your wheel, including the treadle. Be careful turning it on it's side and ask for help if you have a particularly large wheel.

9. Wood Care

Your wheel manufacturer will have a recommended product to care for the wood they have used. If you don't have the manual or don't know the manufacturer – maybe your wheel was made by a friend of a friend – then beeswax is your best option. Apply a small amount of beeswax paste using a clean cloth – not the one you have just done the dusting with – and buff that puppy until you have a gorgeous shiny wheel again!

10. Oiling

Last but not least, check any moving parts and apply a little oil where necessary to ensure the joints glide smoothly.

Once your wheel is back together, go find some fibre and enjoy!

Happy Spinning!

