

## Re: How to clean and reuse an ignition switch.

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.electronics.basics/2005-10/msg00432.html>

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- *From:* Rich Grise <[rich@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:rich@xxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Sun, 16 Oct 2005 21:03:19 GMT
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On Sun, 16 Oct 2005 13:42:24 +0000, Anthony Fremont wrote:

> "Rich Grise" <[rich@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:rich@xxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
>> If that doesn't work, try increasingly aggressive solvents – mineral  
>> spirits (turpentine), benzene or toluene, MEK (but be extremely  
>> careful – it will attack the plastic), and as a last resort, acetone.  
>  
> Just out of curiosity why acetone as the last resort? MEK seems allot  
> more hazardous, is it not?

No, actually, MEK (methyl ethyl ketone, C<sub>2</sub>H<sub>5</sub>COCH<sub>3</sub>) is a bigger molecule than acetone, which is dimethyl ketone, CH<sub>3</sub>COCH<sub>3</sub> – it absorbs into your skin slower, it has a higher flash point and lower vapor pressure – I could look up the MSDS, but I'm way too lazy. :- ) (looking up the formula was trivial. :- ) )

>> To lube it, get some dry graphite-based lubricant. The car parts store  
>> should have something along those lines.  
>  
> I don't think I'd lube the switch contact area with graphite, maybe  
> dielectric grease to keep out moisture and prevent arcing. Graphite is  
> good for lubing the pins and keyway though.

Yes – this is what I meant, and I apparently wasn't clear. Thanks for the clarification.

But others have suggested some Lithium or Moly grease on the contacts, which actually sounds like a rather good idea. It will keep them from corroding, and the physical movement of the contacts will ensure a good electrical contact, by the wiping action.

Thanks!  
Rich

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- *References:*
    - ◆ *[How to clean and reuse an ignition switch.](#)*

Re: How to clean and reuse an ignition switch.

◇ *From:* Sam Nickaby

◆ ***Re: How to clean and reuse an ignition switch.***

◇ *From:* Rich Grise

◆ ***Re: How to clean and reuse an ignition switch.***

◇ *From:* Anthony Fremont

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