

Re: Getting sawdust out of a computer

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From: Wild Bill (*kwag98_at_usachoice.net*)

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If you have clean compressed air, that would get most of the initial layer of dust off. Parts that are inside covers may have less dust on them. Ground the nozzle of the blow gun (fast moving air can generate static electricity), and use a low-to-moderate air pressure (around 25 psi ought to be good).

The dust from some types of wood are acidic or corrosive. But maybe it's heroin, not sawdust.

The more intricate/delicate parts shouldn't be forcefully blown out with compressed air. The floating CD pickups could be damaged by direct air pressure.

Gears and other parts that have grease on them will probably require manual cleaning with small art brushes or swabs.

Flooding circuit boards with ordinary rubbing alcohol or general purpose household/glass spray cleaners isn't usually harmful to the boards or components.. that doesn't include mechanical assemblies, just boards. I've used various products for cleaning nasty (furry looking) power supplies and other electronic gear for fire reclamation work, and have seen no detrimental effects. Degreasers and other "hot" solvent cleaners should be avoided.

The key factor to cleaning boards with liquids is the drying cycle. A drying chamber is ideal, but an improvised vented cabinet with a hair dryer/heat gun forcing warm (not excessively hot) air into it would also work. A can of duster gas with an extension tube will usually reveal the moisture, if there is any remaining liquid hidded in or under components.

Cheers
WB

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"Ron Bean" <rbean@shell.core.com> wrote in message
news:10e0hkipup3ic4b@corp.supernews.com...

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> *I have a used computer that appears to have been used in a*

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- > *dusty environment-- it's full of a fine brown powder that*
- > *I think is fine sawdust. Most of the parts can be replaced*
- > *but some of them would be worth salvaging.*
- >
- > *A guy who repairs keyboards told me to soak it in alcohol and*
- > *then let it dry thoroughly. Is this a good strategy for circuit*
- > *boards in general?*
- >
- > *It has a ZIP drive and a CD burner that I was planning to sell*
- > *(with full disclosure about where they came from), but now*
- > *I wonder if I should just throw them out instead. It seems like*
- > *the CD burner might be OK if the lens is not scratched, but the*
- > *ZIP drive is more questionable. It came without a hard disk, so*
- > *I'm not worried about that.*
- >
- > *Any other comments on this?*
- >
- >