

How to Clean Your Iron

1. Dryer Sheets

Dryer sheets are fabulous at cleaning any built up starch or heat-n-bond residue you might have on your heating plate. Grab a few fresh dryer sheets from the box and turn your iron on low with no steam. Run the dryer over the sheets for a few minutes and then over a slightly damp hand towel. Turn your iron over and you should be good to go.

2. Vinegar

Pour vinegar on an old hand towel and allow the heat plate to sit on the damp towel for 5-10 minutes. Heat the iron to medium and iron the towel for a few minutes. Keep your head back unless you want to really clear your sinus cavities! Pass the iron a few times over a clean towel when you are done to remove any buildup.

3. Toothpaste

Yes, toothpaste. The cheap, white, non-gel kind. Put a dab on a soft cloth and scrub while the iron is very slightly warm to the touch. Be careful it's not too hot or you'll burn yourself. The natural abrasives in the toothpaste will take care of any built up gunk and mineral deposits.

4. Baking Soda

A paste made with baking soda and water will work much the same as the toothpaste above, but will smell less minty.

5. Newspaper

This is the perfect solution if you happen to have anything waxy stuck to your iron. Heat the iron to high and iron the paper. The wax should absorb into the newspaper and leave your iron. After the wax is removed, be sure to clean the iron with one of the methods above to be sure.

6. Wet Sponge

If you happen to have scorched some fabric, chances are some might have stuck to the iron. In this case, place a wet sponge on your ironing board and immediately pressed the hot iron to the sponge. The drastic change in temperature should release the burned on fabric.

7. Salt

This method is to be used sparingly and carefully. Too abrasive of a cleaning will damage the heating plate.

Sprinkle salt on a damp towel and iron back and forth vigorously but carefully. This should scrub off any really stubborn stains. Allow the iron to cool

completely and brush any salt away from the steam holes.

8. Losing steam? Baking soda, cotton swabs, vinegar.

If your iron is losing it's steam, chances are it is all stuffed up. Mineral deposits are blocking it's steam vents, but they are easy to clean. First, make sure the iron is COLD. Make a paste with baking soda and water and carefully rub the paste into the steam openings on the plate. Then, with a clean swab dip into some vinegar and rub the holes again. The reaction will loosen any built up residue at the opening of the holes. Carefully brush away any remaining baking soda/residue and try the iron again. If this has helped, but not completely remedied the situation, drain the water reservoir and fill half way with vinegar. Run the steam function until the reservoir is dry.

9. Magic Eraser™

Use on a warm-hot iron. Wet the Magic Eraser™ and wring out the excess water. Place the eraser on an ironing surface and run the iron over the eraser several times until no more residue is left on the soleplate.

Finally, if the water where you live is excessively "hard" – be sure to either use only distilled water in your iron or remove water from the water chamber of the iron while it is still hot to keep it dry and prevent a buildup of mineral deposits.



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