Press release

BALLISTOL Suppressor & Carbon Cleaner: Why Brake Cleaner Won't Clean Your Suppressor

According to the American Suppressor Association, the number of suppressors registered in the U.S. rose from about 4.4 million at the end of 2024 to nearly six million in April 2026. On January 1, 2026, the federal transfer tax on suppressors also dropped from $200 to $0. With every suppressor comes the same question sooner or later: how do you get the carbon out?

Some owners reach for brake cleaner. According to Andreas Zettler, CEO at BALLISTOL GmbH, Germany, that does not work: "Brake cleaner is a solvent made for grease and oil residues, not for combustion residues. Carbon burns onto the surface at high temperatures. You have to dissolve and undermine it, and water-based cleaners are the best way to do that."

Zettler also stresses why regular cleaning matters: "Every user should know that a suppressor is a consumable. Heat, weather and unburned powder and acid residues act on its surface like sandblasting. Proper cleaning extends its service life."

This is where BALLISTOL Suppressor & Carbon Cleaner comes in. Its water-based formula contains surfactants that break the surface tension. With a PH of around 10, it is alkaline and neutralizes the acidic residues left by powder combustion. The cleaner works on its own, without additional tools or mechanical effort. It is acid-free, odor-neutral and gentle on the material, and rust-inhibiting additives protect against corrosion.

Using it is simple. Seal the suppressor on one side with a rubber plug, fill it completely with the cleaner and leave it for at least two hours. The colorless liquid changes color to a slight green once the cleaning is complete. Then pour out the cleaner, fill the suppressor halfway with clear water, close both ends and shake it vigorously until no more soot particles come out. Once dry, the suppressor is ready to use again. For suppressors with a particularly high round count, warm the cleaner to approx. 40 °C (104 °F) and leave it in for at least four hours. Suppressors that cannot be sealed can be placed in the cleaner completely and take-down models are cleaned by soaking the parts.

The cleaner can also be used on sooted gas systems, muzzle brakes, chokes and revolver cylinder faces, and it is safe to use in an ultrasonic bath. Coatings and paint finishes should be checked for compatibility before use. BALLISTOL Suppressor & Carbon Cleaner is available in a 500 ml (16.9 fl oz) bottle and a 5 litre (1.32 gal) canister.

Visitors can see BALLISTOL Suppressor & Carbon Cleaner at SHOT Show 2027 in the IWA Pavilion.

Number of keystrokes (including spaces, without headline): 2.572

Company profile BALLISTOL GmbH

BALLISTOL has been manufacturing the tried-and-tested universal oil for more than 120 years. The family-owned company based in Aham, Bavaria, combines a pioneering spirit with a high degree of innovation and exports to more than 60 countries worldwide. Its portfolio, continuously expanded over the years, consists mostly of self-developed and self-produced products. In addition to the three great classics – Ballistol Universal Oil, Ballistol Animal and Neo-Ballistol home remedy – the range has grown to include a technology series, a gun care series, a bicycle care series and much more, with more than 80 products today. In recent years, BALLISTOL has also invested regularly in the continuous optimization of its processes as well as in further development and innovation.

Number of keystrokes (including spaces): 778

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