

Customer Reviews of Firearms Cleaners/Oils

Compiled by Doug White, 11/26/15

One of the biggest mysteries in the life of a new shooter is what gun oil/cleaners to use. There are hundreds of products out there, and nobody I'm aware of has had the time to try more than a handful. Fewer still have actually done any scientific comparison of their performance.

One option to get yet-another-(vaguely)-meaningless-survey is to look at Amazon reviews. You get the un-scientific opinions of lots of reviewers for a wide range of products. Admittedly, some of the reviews are written by idiots ("cleans great, but my cat doesn't like the smell, so I'm giving it one star..."), but it's a much broader sample than I think you can get anywhere else.

One catch is that there are a wide range of uses, and some products are sold as "CLP"s (cleans, lubricates & protects), while some are just solvents, some are just rust preventatives, etc. I'll start with the one-size fits all stuff. For price comparison, I tried to get a price for a 4 oz. bottle because that seems to be the most common size. In some instances, I had to use the 8 oz price & divide by 2, and some only come in aerosols or pumps, which raises the price a bit. The average review numbers are generally close enough that they are probably statistically insignificant, so I ranked them by the percentage of 5 star reviews.

<p>Slip 2000 EWL: \$12.99</p> <p>★★★★★ 174 4.9 out of 5 stars ▾</p> <p>5 star ██████████ 87%</p> <p>4 star ████████ 11%</p> <p>3 star █████ 1%</p> <p>2 star █████ 0%</p> <p>1 star █████ 1%</p>	<p>M-Pro 7: \$8.97</p> <p>★★★★★ 240 4.8 out of 5 stars ▾</p> <p>5 star ██████████ 86%</p> <p>4 star ████████ 10%</p> <p>3 star █████ 3%</p> <p>2 star █████ 0%</p> <p>1 star █████ 1%</p>	<p>Ballistol: \$9.38</p> <p>★★★★★ 984 4.8 out of 5 stars ▾</p> <p>5 star ██████████ 86%</p> <p>4 star ████████ 10%</p> <p>3 star █████ 2%</p> <p>2 star █████ 1%</p> <p>1 star █████ 1%</p>
<p>Mil-Comm MC25: \$9.80</p> <p>★★★★★ 53 4.8 out of 5 stars ▾</p> <p>5 star ██████████ 85%</p> <p>4 star ████████ 7%</p> <p>3 star █████ 0%</p> <p>2 star █████ 4%</p> <p>1 star █████ 4%</p>	<p>Breakfree CLP: \$6.79</p> <p>★★★★★ 574 4.8 out of 5 stars ▾</p> <p>5 star ██████████ 83%</p> <p>4 star ████████ 12%</p> <p>3 star █████ 4%</p> <p>2 star █████ 0%</p> <p>1 star █████ 1%</p>	<p>Rem Oil: \$7.78</p> <p>★★★★★ 213 4.6 out of 5 stars ▾</p> <p>5 star ██████████ 79%</p> <p>4 star ████████ 16%</p> <p>3 star █████ 3%</p> <p>2 star █████ 0%</p> <p>1 star █████ 2%</p>
<p>Hoppes Elite Gun Cleaner: \$8.49</p> <p>★★★★★ 85 4.7 out of 5 stars ▾</p> <p>5 star ██████████ 78%</p> <p>4 star ████████ 15%</p> <p>3 star █████ 4%</p> <p>2 star █████ 0%</p> <p>1 star █████ 3%</p>	<p>FireClean: \$28.99</p> <p>★★★★★ 242 4.6 out of 5 stars ▾</p> <p>5 star ██████████ 76%</p> <p>4 star ████████ 11%</p> <p>3 star █████ 3%</p> <p>2 star █████ 2%</p> <p>1 star █████ 8%</p>	<p>Frog Lube: \$10.80</p> <p>★★★★★ 163 4.5 out of 5 stars ▾</p> <p>5 star ██████████ 76%</p> <p>4 star ████████ 11%</p> <p>3 star █████ 6%</p> <p>2 star █████ 1%</p> <p>1 star █████ 6%</p>

Basically, the top 5 are all pretty similar. In terms of "bang for your buck", the classic Break-Free is the cheapest. It ranks pretty close to the top ranked Slip 2000 EWL in terms of few really bad reviews, but at close to half the price. Two of the latest "snake oils" (Frog Lube & FireClean) fared the worst, possibly because of overselling their performance, or in the case of FireClean, the astronomical price.