

Common Myth #21

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The quickest method is the best method for cleaning valve seats.

Description

No, not really. It all depends on the “cleaning” method being used. Does the valve you are “cleaning” need to be cleaned or scoured? Does dirt, grime, epoxy adhesive, or some other foreign substances have to be removed? Does cleaning the valve include cleaning the valve stem or do you replace those automatically (as recommended in our maintenance manuals)?

A soft bristle brush is fine if you are merely cleaning loose particles on a smooth surface to ensure a proper seal.

If a soft bristle brush isn't working and you are considering using steel wool, emery cloth, or sandpaper – replace the part! You can call Amerex about specific instances but you must understand that the engineering tolerances include surface finish smoothness. The use of any abrasive will radically alter any metal surface that is cleaned this way and diminish the quality of our product, your service and the end user's property!

If all of the valves you check are extremely dirty you should advise the customer that in order to prevent future maintenance problems he should consider some other preventative steps such as covers or cabinets. Additionally, brass valve extinguishers should be used in harsh environments. This would help protect the fire extinguishers, save on repair costs, and ensure proper functioning of the fire extinguishers.

As a last note, though service vehicle space is limited, don't try to employ one tool for all cleaning jobs. The tendency is to go to the tool that will work in all cases – namely steel wool or sandpaper – DON'T! Use the right tools every time. Do not try to use one universal tool.

There is no substitute for care and following manufacturer's instructions