

## In-Line Care

Like any other muzzleloader design, in-lines must be kept clean. Blackpowder and Pyrodex are hygroscopic (they attract water) and will corrode and rust even today's stainless-steel guns. For reliable service in any in-line, the action must be disassembled and thoroughly cleaned after an extended shooting session or before starting the hunting season. With the design of most in-lines (the Remington is a notable exception) the striker slides in the receiver, and as fouling from gases that escape the nipple accumulate, the striker movement can slow or lock up, causing misfires. It is also important to keep snow, ice, or dirt from building up while hunting and causing the same problem.

Most in-lines have a screw-in breech plug and nipple that can be easily removed. Soaking them in a good cleaning solution like Rusty Duck and working them over with an old toothbrush will remove most fouling. Be sure that the ignition channel is clear by working a nipple pick through it with the solvent. With the plug removed, the barrel can be cleaned from the breech, and the bore can be inspected to see if it is clean. Rusty Duck works well for fouling, as does Shooters Choice Black Powder Gel. They also make Lead Remover solvent to clean out any deposits from bullets.

When replacing the nipple and breech plug, always cover the threads with grease to ensure you can get it apart next time. (Don't forget to thoroughly clean the ignition channel before loading.) Lubricate the striker with a good all-temperature liquid lubricant such as Rem-Oil (do not use grease). The outside metal can be protected with a quality metal protector such as Outers Metal Seal or Shooters Choice Rust Preventative. The bore should be protected with a nonpetroleum-based grease such as those used in the natural bullet lubes. Hodgdon Pyrodex patches work great.



***Above: Muzzleloader bores should be protected with a nonpetroleum-based grease like that found on Hodgdon Pyrodex patches. Rusty Duck Black Off should also be part of your muzzleloader-cleaning kit.***