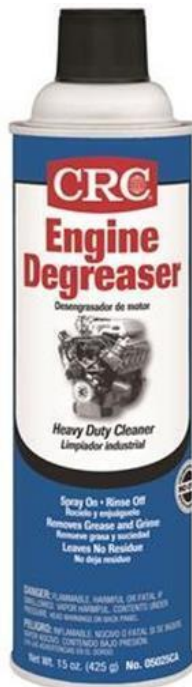


Cleaning the Working Parts of Your Model A

Recently while replacing the engine in one of my Model A's, I was confronted with the problem of what to do about all the dirty nuts, bolts and small parts that I removed and was intending to re-use with the new engine. About 15 years ago, I had completely restored this car with the intention of using it for local Model A outings and club events but also as a car to take on long distance tours. I had powder coated the frame and other major under chassis components to make it easier to keep clean and looking nice. After 19,000 miles of club events and long distance touring, while the engine and undercarriage looked reasonably clean, when I started to take things apart, I found everything was a bit dirtier than expected and most components had a coating of grease and oil. Certainly, with a new freshly painted engine being installed, I wanted everything else to be clean and presentable.

After removing the old engine and transmission, I sprayed CRC Engine degreaser on the front suspension components and areas of the chassis that were dirty and greasy. After letting it set over night, I pushed the car outside and just hosed off the front suspension and engine bay. I was surprised how clean everything was. The powder coated components were really easy to clean up. I was careful not to get any engine degreaser on the fenders or body as I was not sure how it would react with these paint finishes. To clean the firewall, I used Simple Green spray cleaner. I have been using this cleaner for many years with very good results. It is not hard on finishes and does a good job of removing dirt and is easy to rinse off with water.

I used a shallow flat metal tray to clean all the small parts and nuts and bolts. I then sprayed both sides of everything with the engine degreaser and let it set for an hour or so then rinsed them off with hot water. For a final clean, I could use either Simple Green or liquid dish washing soap and then rinsed with hot water. Liquid dish washing soap does a good job of removing the oily film that can remain after using the engine cleaner. Dish washing soap also does a good job cleaning your hands and the lemon scent will make everything smell good.



For really dirty parts, I will first soak them in kerosene and then use simple green or dish washing soap. Be careful using kerosene. It is flammable but does a good job cleaning really grimy parts. If you are cleaning parts with kerosene, use in a well ventilated area away from any open flame and be sure to store it properly.

With a little effort and good cleaning agents, it is not difficult to keep the working parts of your Model A clean and presentable.



Tech Tip

Use Hand Protection When Working on Your Model A

To protect your hands when working on greasy or oily components of your Model A, it is a good idea to use disposable gloves made especially for the mechanic. This is especially true when using solvents or harsh cleaning agents. When finished, be sure to wash your hands thoroughly and use a good hand lotion. Good oil and solvent resistant disposable gloves are available at most auto parts stores.

