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How often do I need to oil my sewing machine?

A sewing machine or any machine that you use for sewing, needs frequent cleaning to prevent dust and residue left by fabrics and thread from clogging up the inner workings. Especially overlocker machines from the result of the fabric always being trimmed off will cause a build up of fluff from the cloth and threads. Frequent cleaning and brushing out this build up of fluff or residue is a must to keep the machine running smooth and prevent malfunction. Many modern machines nowadays are self oiling, especially the drop in bobbin models, but they still require cleaning. All machines come with accessories and these will include sewing machine oil, a small screwdriver and a lint brush.



Oiling the sewing machine needle clamp mechanism



Oiling the bobbin race

How to clean and oil a domestic sewing machine:

The first thing you must always do when you are going to be cleaning a sewing machine is to switch off the power because near the needle and the feed dogs, they are all moving parts. After the power is off, remove the presser foot and the needle. Once they are removed there will be room to remove the stitch plate. The metal plate that sits around the feed dogs. With the stitch plate removed the feed dogs are exposed and you will see the build up of fluff from fabrics and thread. To remove the fluff gently wipe with your lint brush, the fluff should just stick to the brush and you will be able to remove it all until the area is clean and free of all residue. Once you have rid all the fluff you can re attach the stitch plate. The main part that you will need to oil is around the needle clamp, this part is constantly moving up and down and needs to be oiled as to keep it in a nice smooth working operation. Just a few drops of oil is enough, turn the fly wheel a few times as to let the oil work its way in. Once oiled, you can re-attach the needle and the foot. As everything is back together, switch the power on and run the sewing machine for a few seconds to really let the oil work its way in. By now you should notice a difference of how smooth your sewing machine is and how much quieter it is. This regular clean and oil can really enhance the life of your sewing machine and make it a pleasure to work with

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