

Yoder Smokers Paint and Paint Repair

The paint that is used on Yoder cookers is purposeful, and intentional. Yoder cookers are built tough, and are designed to be used in the harshest environment. They are not trailer queens that get polished and admired from afar, they are workhorses that love hard use. With use, the paint on Yoder cookers can become blemished, scarred or chipped. Some call them badges of honor. Someone else may call them ugly, but they have no idea what the cooker excels at, and that a scratch or dent will never affect the taste of food.

Paint blemishes, chips and scratches are very easily fixed on Yoder cookers. The painting procedure and ultimately the paint itself make the repair process very easy and painless. Repairs that are accomplished correctly make the blemishes and scratches disappear as though they never happened, unlike hardened paint surfaces that will always show areas that have been touched up, scratched or repaired. Yes, it takes a little effort and elbow grease, but being able to actually fix a spot to look like it was never there, is well worth it.

Another point that is often misunderstood, or thought to be a negative, is that the paint applied on the inside surfaces of the body of the cooker, is a very thin layer of the same paint that is applied to the outside surfaces of the cooker. This thin coating is applied to prevent the interior metal surfaces of the body of the cooker from rusting, until the cooker is put into service and used. Once the cooker has started to be used, the cooking process will season all of the interior surfaces of the body of the cooker, by depositing layers of smoke and cooking byproducts. The more the cooker is used, the thicker this seasoning layer becomes. Once this seasoning process has started, paint on the interior of the cooker is of no more concern.

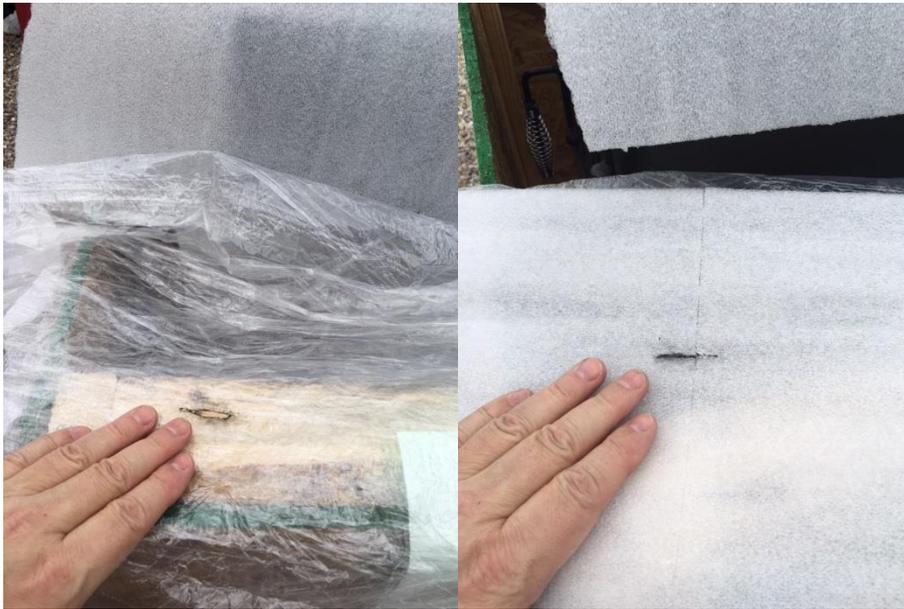
The metal to metal seal between the body of the cooker and the cooker lid gets a bad reputation for small paint blemishes and chips. During normal use, this is to be expected, as there is direct metal to metal contact between a stationary surface and a movable surface. Just like the interior of the cooker, these surfaces will become seasoned with usage. Once seasoned, just like the interior of the body of the cooker, the small blemishes and chips are no longer of concern. If desired, just like the exterior of the cooker, these areas may be repaired, but, the repaired areas should be pre-seasoned with high temperature cooking oil before use, to hasten the re-seasoning process of the surfaces.

Here are a few examples of how easy it is to do paint repair on any Yoder Smokers cooker. To accomplish these repairs, a 120 grit flexible block sanding sponge, a green Scotchbrite scouring pad (both available from any hardware or home store), a microfiber cloth and a can of Yoder Smokers touchup paint (satin black paint for these repairs) were used.

Upon delivery, a new cooker was inspected, and no apparent physical damage was seen. After removing the plastic wrap and foam, this was found:



After further investigation of the plastic wrap and foam, a small slit was found where the damage occurred. The following pictures show that a small slit through the plastic and the foam were directly over the damaged area. This was caused from something coming in contact with the cooker during shipping.



This damaged area was easily repaired in about 15 minutes, using the 120 grit sanding sponge to even out the paint, so that there was no discernable transition from the paint damaged area, to the undamaged paint. This only took a small amount of pressure while sanding the area. Once the area was smooth, the green scouring pad was used to smooth the area even more, to soften the marks left by the 120 grit sanding sponge. The entire area was then wiped with the microfiber cloth to remove all sanding residue. Paint was then applied in 5 or 6 thin coats to repaint the area, starting with spraying just the sanded area, and then gradually expanding to a larger overlapping area to blend in the paint. Here is the repaired area.



The second example of paint repair, is not actually paint damage, but rather a surface defect in the metal under the paint. The following pictures illustrate the defect prior to repair.



The exact same procedure as above was followed to repair this metal defect. The difference is that this took more time and effort to sand using the 120 grit sanding sponge, because there was metal that needed to be removed, as well as the paint. Longer up and down movement were used with the 120 grit sanding sponge, to make sure that the repair was as uniform as possible. Since this was a rounded surface, the sponge was held tightly against the surface, so that the sanding sponge conformed to the same shape as the area being sanded. Once the area was smooth, the green scouring pad was used to further smooth the surface. When using the scouring pad, the sanding was done in the same direction as was used with the sanding sponge. The complete surface was then wiped down with a microfiber cloth, and paint was applied in light thin coats, beginning directly over the defect, and slowly expanding out to a larger area to blend in the paint. This picture shows the repair after a few coats of paint.



Here is a picture of the defect area after the painting was finished. This repair took about 45 minutes from start to finish, but the bulk of that time was waiting for the paint to dry between the thin coats.



Repairs like this are impossible on other types of painted surfaces, i.e., enameled, power coat, automotive paint, etc., without using body shop tools and techniques, and even then the final repair most likely would not totally disappear as in the case of the two repairs illustrated here. To better define this, repairs on other surfaces would look the same as a paint chip or scratch repair looks like on your vehicle. Yes the color may match, but the defect of the chip or scratch is still visible and very apparent.