

Entchromer - Chromentferner

Chrome Stripping (Dechroming) – Beginner Guide Brush, Tampon & Bath Electroplating

This guide is beginner-friendly, practical, and aligned with international sources and training. It applies to selective brush/tampon chrome removal as well as bath stripping, if approved for the product.

The chrome stripper reliably removes hexavalent chromium (Chromium VI) while protecting the underlying nickel or copper layer. It can also be used as a test to confirm whether a surface is actually chrome-plated.

1. What Is Chrome Stripping?

Chrome stripping is an electrochemical process that removes an existing chrome layer without attacking the underlying nickel or copper. Typical reasons include:

- repair work
- re-plating
- color or coating changes
- verification of chrome layers

⚠ **Important:** This stripper works on Chromium VI only. Chromium III applied by brush plating cannot be removed chemically and must be removed mechanically (e.g. polishing).

2. Suitable Substrates

- Chrome on nickel
- Chrome on copper
- chrome-plated metal parts
- chrome-plated plastic (with temperature control)

3. Safety Instructions

- possible fumes → do not inhale
- ensure good ventilation
- wear protective gloves
- wear safety goggles
- avoid skin and eye contact

➡ At voltages below 10 V, fumes are usually minimal or absent.

4. Polarity Reversal – Core Principle

⚠ During chrome stripping, polarity is reversed compared to plating.

- Workpiece = Positive (+)
- Electrode / pad = Negative (-)

5. Device-Specific Connections

BMG-50A:

- Activate yellow light
- Handle 1 becomes negative

BMG-25A:

- Connect handle to black negative terminal
 - Connect crocodile clip to red cable and attach to workpiece
 - ⚠ After stripping, always reconnect correctly for normal plating or activation
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6. Required Materials

- Chrome stripper / dechroming solution
 - Stainless steel or graphite anode
 - Fabric or cotton pad
 - Adjustable DC power supply
 - Distilled water for rinsing
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7. Operating Parameters

- Voltage: start at approx. 5 V
- Temperature: room temperature
- Keep pad well soaked at all times

➡ If heat builds up, cool the workpiece with water, especially on chrome-plated plastic.

8. Step-by-Step: Brush / Tampon Chrome Removal

1. Reverse polarity correctly (workpiece positive)
2. Soak pad with stripper
3. Move pad gently in circular motions over the surface
4. Chrome dissolves as a yellowish liquid
5. A smoky yellow nickel layer becomes visible underneath

➡ This nickel layer is protected and not damaged.

9. Bath Chrome Stripping

- Connect workpiece as anode (+)
 - Use stainless steel or graphite anodes
 - Increase voltage slowly
 - Monitor process closely
 - Remove immediately once chrome is stripped
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10. Test Function – Is It Really Chrome?

- Yellow dissolution: chrome present
- Pad turns brown or violet:
 - no chrome present
 - or different alloy

➡ In this case:

- restore normal polarity
 - clean surface with electro cleaner
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11. Post-Treatment

- rinse thoroughly with water
 - neutralize if necessary
 - proceed with re-plating or further processing
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Key takeaway:

Correct polarity reversal and careful temperature control allow safe, selective chrome removal without damaging the underlying layers.