

## **Katana Blade Maintenance**

It is very important to maintain the blade on your katana in order for it to remain in a perfect condition.

The maintenance of your blade should be performed at least every three months. Please ensure that whilst using or cleaning your katana your skin does not touch the blade. Skin oils cause rapid corrosion of fine steels.

Contents of a Typical Maintenance Kit:

1. Powder Ball (Uchiko) - powder for applying polishing powder to blade
2. Blade choji oil
3. Nuguigami paper (rice paper)

1. First, use a sheet of rice paper to remove any oil left over from previous maintenance. Hold the edge away from you and work carefully to avoid injury. (Note: if you wish to save the rice paper, a soft cotton cloth may be substituted).

2. Tap the powder ball lightly against the blade every two inches or so along its length, dusting the blade very lightly with powder. (Note: when using the ball for the first time, you may need to tap the ball against the blade a number of times to start the powder flow through the fabric of the ball.)

3. Using a clean piece of rice paper or cotton cloth to carefully rub over the powder and polish the blade. Repeat until both sides of the blade have been polished and the powder removed.

4. Apply a few drops of oil along the length of each side of the blade and use a clean piece of rice paper or cotton cloth to spread the oil evenly over the blade. Be sure not to touch the blade again before re-sheathing.

The choji oil's primary purpose is to prevent rusting, as low alloy plain carbon steel can rust from water, moisture, blood, etc. Oil is made of 99% mineral oil and only 1% of clove oil for fragrance. Japanese choji clove oil has worked for centuries and is completely time-proven.

NOTE: Do not use clove oil from a chemist because this is pure clove oil, which will rust your sword.