Over time, your burner will develop "seasoning" inside the bowl and inside the lid. Generally, this is the residue left over from burning resins and Athonite, or granular incense. It is not desirable to "clean" this residue away. Rather, it "adds" to the scent over time, of any incense you may decide to burn. Eventually, it may turn black and although this is not in itself a problem, some people do decide to replace the burner for cosmetic or other reasons.

To clean your burner, simply use a little ketchup and baking soda mixed into a paste, on the outside (not on the inside). Polishing with commercial cleaners (such as "Brasso") is not recommended as it can damage the finish and also add a "chemical smell" later when using the burner. Better to have a tarnished burner, than one that is not pleasing scent-wise. Also, a used burner means many prayers have been offered, rather like the analogy of the Bible that has not been read, vs. the Bible that has been marked up, underlined, highlighted.

Additionally, and perhaps most importantly, we give you this warning:
Brass burners get very HOT and they can burn your skin. Handle with extreme care, at all times, when burning incense. You are the only person responsible for your safety. Use only as instructed and never leave a censer burning unattended.

To burn our Athonite, liturgical granular blends, and raw resin incense:
Use a self-lighting charcoal block that is commerically available, specially for the purpose of burning incense. Do NOT use BBQ charcoal. After the block has been fully lit, and is glowing red, drop your incense chunks to the SIDE of the block. Close the lid when you are finished, to help extinguish the remainder and to hasten the extinguishing process.

Tips and Tricks!

1. With liturgical, granular blends it's often better to reverse the process: put the grains in the bottom of the censer and place a lighted charcoal ON TOP.
2. Always wait for your coal to be fully glowing and fully red, before using with your incense.
3. Use a pair of tongs or tweezers to avoid burning yourself.

Remember to share your incense and the light of Love, Hope and Peace with others. Your incense pack(s) contain a little extra for that purpose. Through you, our goal is to place Orthodox Christian incense in every home, regardless of their ability to pay. Your help in achieving this goal, is greatly and prayerfully appreciated.

A note about our incense foils: These are pre-cut for your convenience and come in packs of 15. They are reusable up to 3-4 times if used gently. This foil is not a kitchen foil, but a much thinner version, which allows the incense to heat evenly. They are specially made and cut from a roll in our studio. Each pack is $1.50 and we recommend them for ALL burners, of any kind. Not only do they help to keep your burner (especially charcoal burners and censers) clean, but they help the charcoal and incense to heat evenly, thereby producing a finer and truer fragrance.

We hope you enjoy your censer and our incense.
Our prayers go up with yours as you use it.
Desert Fathers Incense
www.desertfathersincense.com

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