

AIR OUT SAND, CLEAN OFTEN



It doesn't take long in SWA to find out sand is the big enemy of Army equipment. It clogs everything, including your M40/M42-series masks, which leads to poor breathing and seeing.

The only ways to fight sand are to keep your mask in its carrier as much as possible and clean the mask often.

Pay special attention when cleaning the outlet valve disk, the inside of the lenses, the canister's air intake and in the mask's inner lining.

You can shake out most sand and use low-pressure air to clear out the rest. Soldiers in SWA say an air hose makes it much easier to get rid of sand. Don't forget to blow sand out of the carrier, too.

If your mask is caked with sand, you need to clean it like it says in TM 3-4240-346-20&P: After removing the filters, wash it in a bucket of water until all the sand is gone. Then let it air dry.

For more mask desert PM, see PS 631 (Jun 05):

<https://www.logsa.army.mil/pub/psissuesA/631/631-56-57.pdf>

