

The best lube for what?

Ease of application, accuracy, leading, consistency, price? You need to define what your goals are because there is no one best lube. Every caliber, barrel, and bullet combination will show a preference. Just like powder and primer choice. IMHO, to marry yourself to one particular lube is a mistake. You need to setup your criteria based on your needs and goals. For me that is in this order.

1. ACCURACY A hunting rifle load should shoot sub-inch at 100 yards for three shots. A revolver load should shoot sub-inch at 25 yards for five shots. Both from the bench.

2. CONSISTENCY The load/rifle should do this everytime after the bore has shot its necessary number of fouling shots. No cold start flyers. No purging.

3. VELOCITY The lube must perform at the velocity and pressure range that you want to operate in. The hardness of the lube will come into play here and used as another variable.

3. LEADING Assuming the bullet is well fit and sized to the gun, there should be no leading caused by the lube giving up on you. This may require playing with the alloy and hardness to overcome barrel conditions. Minor powdery leading is overlooked if it's a gradual thing. The lube should be used up in the barrel and not left on the recovered bullet. Leading is a minor issue if the above goals have been met. A little elbow grease and a copper "Chore Boy" is a small price to pay.

4. EASE OF APPLICATION Just something you have to deal with. Some are better than others and may or may not require a lube heater. Softer lubes seem to perform better than really hard ones, but will be dictated somewhat by velocity and pressure. An eye has to kept on how the lubed bullets load, handle, store, travel, and handle heat.

That's my list and how I look at lubes. Too much is made of the "lack of leading" thing and one size fits all. For just starting out, pick a softer lube that's easy to apply with your equipment. Get a couple different types from different manufacturer's and try them. Every time you get a new gun or mold, retry all the lubes you have until you find one that works best.

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