

Instrument Care and Cleaning

Flutes, Clarinets, and Saxophones

When the instrument is not being played, keep it stored properly in its case, with leadpipe assemblies, necks, headjoints, and mouthpieces disassembled or removed as applicable, and stored in the appropriate compartment.

It is recommended to consult your trusted woodwind technician for annual deep cleanings and regular mechanical maintenance.

To remove excess dirt, debris and moisture, please use the following methods.

Flutes

After playing:

- Thread a cleaning cloth through the eye of the cleaning rod and wrap it around the rod's shaft, ensuring no metal of the rod is exposed. Insert the covered rod through the body of the flute to remove excess dirt and moisture. Be mindful not to apply excess pressure to the keys on the body during this process. Use this method to carefully clean the headjoint as well.
- Use a polishing cloth to remove dirt and oil from the exterior of the body and headjoint.

Clarinets

Before Playing

- Apply a small amount of cork grease to the corked tenons on the body joints and mouthpiece to ensure proper assembly and fit.
- Keep the mouthpiece and reed covered with a mouthpiece cap when not being played.

After playing:

- Disassemble the clarinet completely. Remove the reed, clean off excess moisture with a cloth, and store in a reed case. Clean the inside of the mouthpiece with a cleaning swab, being careful not to damage the tip of the mouthpiece.
- Use a cleaning swab to clean the interior of the joints of the body. Excess moisture left behind can cause cracking; it is important to remove excess moisture between every play session.

Routinely:

Use may use pad cleaning paper (not included) to remove excess dirt and moisture from the pads. Place the cleaning paper between the pad and the tonehole, and press lightly down on the key while pulling the cleaning paper through. It is recommended to consult your trusted woodwind technician for annual deep cleanings and regular mechanical maintenance.



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Saxophones

Before playing:

Apply a small amount of cork grease to the neck cork to allow proper assembly and fit. Assemble the mouthpiece onto the neck prior to assembling the neck onto the body. Tighten the neck screw after assembling the neck on the body. Keep the mouthpiece and reed covered with a mouthpiece cap when not being played.

After playing:

- Disassemble the neck from the saxophone, then remove the mouthpiece. Remove the reed, clean off excess moisture with a cloth, and store in a reed case. Clean the inside of the mouthpiece with a cleaning swab, being careful not to damage the tip of the mouthpiece.
- Use a cleaning swab to also clean the interior of the neck and body of the saxophone. On a baritone saxophone, empty the water key. Excess moisture can cause corrosion, it is important to remove excess moisture between every play session.

Routinely:

Use may use pad cleaning paper (not included) to remove excess dirt and moisture from the pads. Place the cleaning paper between the pad and the tonehole and press lightly down on the key while pulling the cleaning paper through.