



Easton Area High School Instrumental Music Department

2601 William Penn Highway

Easton, PA 18045

(610) 250 2481 x 32214

Mr. Christopher A. Ballentine, *Instrumental Music Director*

ballentinec@eastonsd.org

Wind Instrument Cleaning Procedures

The following document contains information on how to properly clean and disinfect instruments & equipment. It is essential to maintain overall cleanliness via the use of cleaning rods, swabs, mouthpiece brushes, etc., as this is necessary to prevent buildup of residue within the instrument (NFHS, 2020).

General Instrument Hygiene:

1. Sterisol Germicide Solution can be safely used on plastics, hard rubbers, and metals.
2. Mi-T Mist Mouthpiece Cleanser can be used on most materials. It is NOT recommended for use on hard rubber mouthpieces.
3. Isopropyl alcohol wipes are safe for most materials. They are NOT recommended for use on hard rubber mouthpieces.

Whichever disinfectants are chosen, it is crucial to read the product instructions and follow them closely. Disinfectants do not remove dirt, so mouthpieces and instruments must be cleaned thoroughly before using.

- FLUTE -

Items needed: Cleaning Rod, Microfiber/ Cotton Cloth, Disinfectant Wipes (optional)

Headjoint (Daily):

1. Utilize a microfiber or cotton cloth and your cleaning rod to carefully clean around the embouchure hole. Alcohol wipes can also be used on the flute's lip plate to kill germs.
2. Attach the cloth through the slot in your cleaning rod.
 - a. Gently wind it around the cleaning rod. It should cover nearly the entire rod.
3. Insert into your headjoint to remove all moisture.
4. Do **NOT** run the headjoint under water as it may saturate and shrink the headjoint cork.

Instrument Body (Daily):

1. Utilize a microfiber or cotton cloth and your cleaning rod.
2. Attach the cloth through the slot in your cleaning rod.
 - a. Gently wind it around the cleaning rod. It should cover nearly the entire rod.
3. Insert into both ends of the body of the flute to remove all moisture.
4. Be sure to hold the flute away from the keys so you do not bend or damage the instrument.

[Flute Cleaning](#)

- REED INSTRUMENTS -

Items needed: Instrument Swab, Mouthpiece Brush OR Damp Paper Towel, Disinfectant Solution, Bottle Brush (optional)

Mouthpiece (Daily/ Weekly):

1. Handle the mouthpiece carefully.
 - a. Clarinets - be careful to not get the cork around the bottom of the mouthpiece wet.
2. Dampen a paper towel with lukewarm water and gently wipe down the inside / outside of the mouthpiece.
 - a. You can also utilize a mouthpiece brush.
3. Thoroughly dry after you wiping down the mouthpiece.
4. Spray a disinfectant solution on the plastic portion of the mouthpiece and let sit for one minute.
 - a. Clarinets - be sure to not spray the cork of the mouthpiece.
5. Wipe dry.

Saxophone Neck (Daily):

1. Swabs are available to clean the inside of the saxophone neck.
2. The neck should be swabbed after each use.
3. Use a bottlebrush with mild, soapy water to clean the inside of the neck.
4. Rinse under running water.
5. Disinfectant solution may also be used on the inside of the neck if desired if you do not have a brush.
 - a. Place on a paper towel for one minute.
6. Rinse again under water and dry.

Instrument Body (Daily):

1. Do not ever submerge the instrument in water. This will destroy the pads and body of the instrument.
2. Use a clarinet/ saxophone swab and gently run through your instrument each time after playing.

- a. It is important to remove all moisture from the instrument to prevent the build up of germs.

[Clarinet Cleaning](#)

[Saxophone Cleaning](#)

- BRASS -

Items needed: Mouthpiece Brush, Disinfectant Solution, Soap & Water, Wire Snake (optional)

Mouthpiece (Weekly):

1. Use a cloth soaked in warm, soapy water to clean the outside of the mouthpiece.
2. Use a mouthpiece brush with warm, soapy water to clean the inside of the mouthpiece.
3. Rinse the mouthpiece and dry thoroughly.
4. Disinfectant solution may be used on the mouthpiece. After spraying, let sit for one minute before wiping dry.

Instrument Body (Monthly) - excludes sousaphone:

1. Remove all valves, valve caps, and slides from the instrument.
 - a. Place these aside.
2. In lukewarm water, submerge the body of your instrument in water. Pour a small amount of dish detergent down the bell of the instrument and let water run through the instrument.
 - a. Let the instrument soak for several minutes.
 - b. If you have a wire snake, use this through the lead pipe to remove any built up material.
3. Rinse thoroughly with lukewarm water.
4. Run water through the slides you removed.
 - a. If you have a wire snake, use this through the slides to remove any built up material.
5. Let the instrument dry.
6. Apply valve & slide oil to their applicable parts.
7. Reassemble instrument.

To wipe down the exterior of the instrument, utilize a disinfectant wipe and gently wipe down the exterior of the instrument.

[Sample Brass Cleaning](#)