

Instrument Care & Maintenance

Please use this guide as a reference to remember how to take care of your musical instrument. When properly taken care of, instruments rarely have to go to the repair shop. It is every student's responsibility to do his/her best to keep their instrument clean, properly lubricated and in good playing condition at all times. *Failure to do so may result in costly and unnecessary repairs, which can be charged back to the student in accordance with their Instrument Loan Agreement. Show pride in your instrument by taking good care of it!*

ALL INSTRUMENTS

DO...

Complete an Instrument Loan Agreement before taking home
Store your instrument in its proper place, always
Be sure you have all the accessories required
Take good care of your instrument case
Be sure case is properly latched before carrying
Play only the instrument(s) you are assigned
Assemble and disassemble it CORRECTLY

DON'T...

Take an instrument home before Loan Agreement is signed
Leave your instrument out or unattended
Loose accessories (mouthpiece, ligature, swab, cork grease, etc.)
Sit on it or put your feet on it... EVER
Store things inside your case that don't belong there
Play other instruments or allow others to play yours
Leave it in a hot car!

BRASS INSTRUMENTS

DO...

Wipe mouthpiece clean after each use
Wash mouthpiece with soap & water weekly
Wipe off water marks, finger prints, excess oil/lube
Lubricate the valves and slides as instructed & needed
Use only lubricants recommended by your director
Clean entire instrument only as instructed
Use mild soap and warm water only (not hot!)
Empty "water" before storing in case
Hold on to your instrument, always
Store it safely in its case when not playing it
Inspect felts, pads, springs and water key corks often
Report any problems to the director, immediately

DON'T...

Drop your mouthpiece
Leave mouthpiece stuck to your horn
Pound the mouthpiece when putting it on
Attempt to remove stuck mouthpiece or slides yourself
Use products not intended for lubricating brass instruments
Use strong or abrasive cleaning products
Leave your instrument unattended
Balance your instrument on the floor or chair
Drop, dent, bump, bang, scratch your instrument... EVER!
Let others play your instrument without director's permission
Attempt to repair it yourself! Only a repair technician can fix it.
Attempt to hide or ignore problems... they won't go away!

WOODWIND INSTRUMENTS

DO...

Remove and wipe off your reed after playing
Store reed carefully so it does not warp when it dries
Use reed saver or other protective device
Wash your mouthpiece with soap and warm water
Apply cork grease only as needed and as instructed
Lubricate keys only as instructed and if needed
Always SWAB IT! Keep your instrument clean and dry.
Assemble and disassemble your instrument CORRECTLY
Hold onto and carry your instrument CAREFULLY
Store it safely in its case when not playing it
Inspect pads, felts, springs, screws and corks often
Report any problems to the director, immediately

DON'T...

Leave your reed on your mouthpiece
Leave your reed loose inside your case
Put your instrument in its case without swabbing first!
Submerge your instrument in water... EVER
Let your corks dry out! Don't use too much cork grease
Let others play your instrument without director's permission
Attempt to remove a stuck swab yourself. See director!
Drop, dent, bump, bang or scratch your instrument... EVER!
Carry or hold it by the neck or neck strap
Balance your instrument on the floor, chair or music stand
Attempt to repair it yourself! Only a repair technician can fix it.
Attempt to hide or ignore problems... they won't go away!

PERCUSSION INSTRUMENTS

DO...

Keep all equipment clean and dry
Store everything in its proper place. Use cases if available.
Check for loose or missing hardware
Report mechanical failure, damage or breakage immediately
Use appropriate mallets for all instruments
Use proper technique, ALWAYS!

DON'T...

Leave equipment or sticks/mallets lying around the band room
Allow others to play your equipment
Drop, dent, bump, bang or scratch the equipment... EVER!
Sit on your equipment or cases... EVER
Attempt to hide or ignore problems... they won't go away!
Break or tear anything intentionally