

Clarinet Care

Keep your instrument healthy to keep you healthy.

Items Needed for Clarinet Care:

- Cork Grease
- Swab
- Reed Case
- Soft children's toothbrush
- Clean cloth

Corks-

Do I have to force the parts of my clarinet together?

Grease your corks

Put cork grease on your fingers and massage into corks

Apply ONLY WHEN NECESSARY. Over-greasing can turn the cork to mush.

Reeds-

Have I properly soaked my reed?

- Before playing soak your reed thoroughly in your mouth or in warm water for a few minutes.

Is my reed fit to play on?

- Your reed should have no cracks or chips. These can cause unpleasant squeaking!
- Look at the tip of the reed. It should be completely flat. If it is wavy, after soaking the reed, rub the flat part of the reed on a clean, flat surface.

Where to I keep my reeds?

- Never store reeds on a mouthpiece. Always remove the reed and place it in a case or the plastic sleeve that it comes in.
- You should rotate the reeds you play on. Label the reeds "1", "2", "3", etc. and take turns!

Instrument Body-

Is my mouth clean?

- Never play an instrument directly after eating. After you eat, swish water in your mouth to rid any loose food. Clean mouth= clean instrument.

Is it okay to share reeds/mouthpieces?

- NO! Germs!!!! Instruments are breeding grounds for germs!

What should I do daily to keep my instrument clean?

- After playing, ALWAYS run a swab through multiple times. When putting the clarinet away, inspect the ends of the parts, wipe any condensation/residue you see.

What should I do occasionally to keep my instrument clean?

- During free time, inspect the clarinet. Check for loose screws. If there is dust, you can use a clean towel to wipe off the majority and a soft toothbrush to dust between keys.