



How do I clean my recorder?

How to Clean the Head Joint	How to Clean the Body and Foot Joints
<p>There are multiple ways to clean the head joint. The point is to keep the mouthpiece as clean and free of germs as possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once every week, you should hold the mouthpiece (large hole-side up) under warm running water. This will help to remove any clogged food particles from the small spaces in the head joint. • Avoid sticking or allowing anything inside the small hole of the mouthpiece. It is extremely difficult to remove and will not allow your recorder to make proper sound. • Once a month, or after you have been sick, wipe your mouthpiece clean with a sterilizing cloth (like a Clorox wipe) and/or soak it in a 10% bleach solution. This is something you should undertake with parent guidance as bleach can hurt you if you're not careful. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your best option in keeping the inside of the body and foot joints clean is to ask your parents to help you find a small piece of fabric cloth to insert into your cleaning wand. <u>The cloth should not be so big that it gets stuck or has to be forced inside your recorder and big enough to soak up any condensation that is inside.</u> Paper towels or tissue are NOT to be used inside an instrument as they will get stuck. This type of cleaning should be done after every time you play. Excess food particles and germs build-up over time and create some pretty nasty results. • Once or twice a month, it is also a good idea to run your recorder through the <u>top rack</u> of the dishwasher or soak it in a 10% bleach solution. These are things you will need parent help to do. Please do not undertake them without their guidance. After cleaning your recorder this way, be sure to use a little of your joint grease to seal up the joint.
<h3>What Do I Do With Joint Grease?</h3> <p>Joint grease is needed to ensure that the place where the joints connect is sealed properly. Apply a <u>very thin layer</u> of grease to the inside connector <u>only</u> when:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the recorder's joints are difficult to separate • the recorder's joints do not stay together • the recorder was just cleaned in a dishwasher's top rack or soaked in a 10% bleach solution <p>DO NOT leave your grease in your case, on the floor of your house, or anywhere else where it will be eaten by animals or siblings. Keep in a safe place, like the bottom of drawer.</p>	<h3>Wipe Down the Outside</h3> <p>It's a good idea to wipe down the outside of your recorder with a soapy cloth or sterilizing cloth (like a Clorox wipe) once a week. This is especially important during cold/flu season or if you play your recorder right after recess or outside play.</p>