

Flute Cleaning & Care Guide

HEAD JOINT

You will need – warm water, cleaning rod, cleaning cloth, a soft cloth, and paper towels

1. Use warm water from the tap. Run the water through the embouchure hole, letting it run out of the open end.
2. After rinsing the head joint thoroughly, use the cleaning rod and cleaning cloth to dry it out.
3. Look through the open end. If the inside is not clean and shiny, repeat the procedure.
4. Hold the head joint in your left hand. Using a paper towel in your right hand, rub the inside of the head joint and forth until dirt and/or tarnish no longer appear on the paper.
5. Wipe the embouchure plate and the outside of the head joint with the clean, soft cloth to remove all fingerprints.

MIDDLE JOINT AND FOOT JOINT

You will need – a clean, soft cloth, a small toothbrush or woodwind key brush, cotton buds, paper towels, cleaning cloth.

1. Swab the middle joint several times, using the cleaning rod and cloth. Look through the joint. If the inside is not clean and shiny, repeat the procedure until it is.
2. Do the same with the foot joint.
3. Using the paper towels, clean the ends of the middle joint just as you did on the head joint.
4. Use the paper towels to clean the ends of the foot joint. Keep wiping with a clean part of the paper towel until dirt/tarnish no longer shows up on the paper towel.
5. Use a brush or the cotton buds to clean dust from the areas around and under the keys and rods. Take care not to move any springs.
6. Using the clean, soft cloth, wipe the outside areas to remove all fingerprints and smudges.
7. Wash and dry the cleaning cloth after cleaning the instrument.

THE CASE

- Remove any unnecessary items and find them another home.
- Thoroughly vacuum the inside of the case before you return the cleaning instrument to it.
- Be sure to fold the cleaning cloth carefully and store it on top of the head joint, not on top of the keys.

IMPORTANT NOTES

- Each flute has a metal rod that is used for cleaning. The cleaning cloth should be fed through the eye of the rod making sure that the end of the rod is covered completely.
- Swab out each section of the flute after playing. The end of the head joint and the middle joint should be wiped free of dirt.
- A sticky pad is usually due to moisture or dirt. To clean the pads, place a piece of absorbent paper, such as lens paper for cleaning camera lenses, under the pad, close the key, and pull the paper through. To avoid sticky pads, don't eat or chew gum before playing.
- As you put your flute in the case, carefully wipe off the outside of the flute to remove oils or perspiration caused by your hands.

- Check all screws and pivots to see if they are coming loose. If they are, take your flute to a repair shop or your teacher to have them adjusted. You should not try and adjust them yourself because they can be over tightened or cause the instrument to become out of adjustment.
- About twice a year the flute keys should be oiled. A small amount of high-grade key oil should be applied to the friction points in the mechanism. To avoid damage to the pads, immediately remove excess oil with a cloth. Apply the oil with the tip of a toothpick.
- Always keep your flute in its case when you are not playing it. Never put anything in your case that it was not designed to hold. The pressure from papers or music in your case can bend the rods and keys.
- Be sure to latch your case carefully.