

WOODWIND CLEANING CHECK LIST

1. Thoroughly swab out your instrument and wipe the outside *daily*.
2. Clean your swab **often** by washing it with your hands, using the same soap you wash your hands with. Rinse it well and leave it to dry, or use a blow dryer.
3. *Clarinets and Saxophones only* may rinse their mouthpieces with soapy water. You may also use a soft brush (like a toothbrush or mouthpiece brush) to gently scrub any build up on the outside.
4. Using a paper towel, *gently* wipe off old cork grease from corks and apply new grease. Torn or missing cork must be replaced.
5. Using a Q-tip, remove built up grease from the connecting part of each section of your instrument (*Clarinet and Sax only*).
6. Use a Q-tip or soft brush to clean underneath rods and all sections where dust, grime and tarnish can build up.
7. Use a soft cloth or silver cloth to wipe finger residue off keys *daily*.
8. Check and clean pads using pad cleaning paper, or strips of clean, unused white paper by inserting the paper under each pad, applying *gentle* pressure to the pad, and pulling the paper. Throw away dirty parts of the paper and use a clean section until the paper comes out clean.
9. Check all pads for tears, or if they're missing.
10. Check all crews at the ends of rods, tightening them where needed with a small screwdriver.
11. Twice a year, add a *tiny drop* of key oil to each end section of the rods.
12. *Saxophones only* – you should rinse soapy water through the neck of your sax often, then follow with clean water to rinse. You may also use a sax neck brush or a neck swab (*don't try to fit your normal swab through the neck, though!*)
13. *Flutes only* – use a cleaning rod to check that your end cork is properly set. If it is not, report it to your teacher.

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