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MUSIC

A DALE CLEVES MUSIC STORE



INSTRUMENT CLEANING GUIDE

THE LATEST INFORMATION
TO ENSURE SAFE CLEANING METHODS

INSTRUMENT CARE

In response to the continuing concerns relating to the Corona Virus (COVID-19) outbreak, Winston Music has collated some useful information that we hope best assists with cleaning procedures for your school or teaching environment.

Naturally, the Corona Virus (COVID-19) pandemic is having major impact throughout the world, including Australia's 'Performing Art's' industry and education sector.

This can, of course, be a most difficult learning period for students, while teachers and other school faculty members are required to take on new social and environmental challenges daily.

Based on the number of questions Winston Music has received in-store and over the phone, we can only imagine the number of enquiries music teachers (both classroom and private) are receiving regarding the hygiene and care of each student's instrument.

To provide support and best facilitate your staff and students during this time, our Education team at Winston Music has put together some simple cleaning instructions that can be



followed on a regular or daily basis, depending on your teaching environment.

All information has been approved from our product specialists in-store, along with recommendations made by suppliers and members of the Piano Technicians Guild.

For any further support or assistance relating to music instruments and education, please call or email our Education Manager, Kassandra Ladas (contact details attached).



PIANO CLEANING

GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

- A soft disposable towel (paper towels suitable), using warm water and antibacterial hand soap is safe to use on virtually every finish, key and case parts. Always follow up with a dry, soft disposable towel to dry any standing liquid.
- Cleaning pianos is a gentle process, and should be completed without scrubbing or pressure, as this can lead to scratching or removing the finish.
- Remember to wash your hands after you have thrown away the disposable towels, and wear gloves if possible.

Note: Please ensure when cleaning your piano keys, you use a cloth that is damp, and almost dry. Avoid getting water down between the piano keys, since the wood is unsealed.

DISINFECTANT CLEANING

Special care should always be taken when using disinfectant products on a piano.

- If using a disinfectant, it is recommended to use an alcohol-based product, **NOT** a bleach-based product.
- **Do not** use any products containing citrus (lemon, orange, etc.).
- When applying, spray disinfectant on a disposable towel, do not apply directly on to the piano.
- Follow up with a dry towel and never leave liquids on the piano or keys.



BRASS & WOODWIND CLEANING

GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

During this time, we recommend at-home cleaning for your mouthpiece with a brush and warm soapy water on a more regular basis to remove grime and food debris. For reed instruments, we recommend using sanitizing spray. Maintenance kits are highly recommended during this time, as they include cleaning brushes, 'snakes', pull-throughs and polishing cloths. Be sure to clean brushes regularly to avoid germs forming on the surface. Brass baths are also a suitable option during this time, but must be followed with care.

DISINFECTANT CLEANING

- Wipe over your instrument case (preferably at home, before school) with a damp, almost dry disposable towel or anti-bacterial wipe.
- Wash your hands with anti-bacterial soap for 30 seconds, prior to assembling your instrument and after pack up.
- Apply Sterisol spray around mouthpiece area to kill germs before playing - suitable for use on all materials and mouthpieces.
- Use a pull-through cloth or rod (2-3 times) to reduce moisture, at least 1.5 metres away from classmates. Dry sockets/tenons, and leave case open for 5 minutes to dry instrument joints.
- Proceed to clean the outside of your instrument with a suitable polishing cloth, and safely put back into instrument case.
- DO NOT use metal polish or commercial cleaners on lacquered, brushed silver or silver-plated instruments (trumpets, saxophones or flutes); this can cause corrosion to the exposed metal parts.
- DO NOT use the same cloth to clean anyone else's instrument, and do not touch the tip of your reed/mouthpiece.



STRINGS CLEANING

GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

Violins and other string instruments should always be cleaned on a regular basis due to rosin dust and other grime. For this purpose, it is generally best to use a soft cloth. In all cases, avoid using the same cloth to clean the rest of the body. For this particular purpose, we recommend using disposable towels.

DISINFECTANT CLEANING

- Wipe over your instrument case (preferably at home, before school) with a damp, almost dry disposable towel or anti-bacterial wipe.
- Wash your hands with anti-bacterial soap for 30 seconds, prior to picking up and assembling your instrument. Follow same protocol after packing away instrument.
- Apply disposable alcohol wipes very carefully to the strings by layering a polishing cloth underneath first, followed by a double layer of disposable paper towels. If alcohol wipes aren't available, hand sanitizer is also suitable, but must be completed with the utmost care. Alcoholic substances cannot touch the body of a string instrument in any way.
- To clean the body, place a small amount of varnish on a disposable towel or polishing cloth (if student can clean cloth after use). We recommend W.E Hill & Sons Varnish Cleaner, as the turpentine ingredient offers an antibacterial effect.



GUITAR CLEANING

GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

Due to the varied finishes on guitars, it can be somewhat difficult to provide one answer that fits all. Based on the popularity of gloss-finish acoustic guitars within a school environment, the below recommendations will refer to this finish. Matte finishes should only ever be cleaned with a dry cloth (no wax or polish), while satin finishes can sustain a more thorough clean with a slightly dampened, almost dry, cloth. Ernie Ball sells disposable 'wonder wipes' for guitars.

DISINFECTANT CLEANING

- If kept inside a case: hard case - wipe over with a disposable towel
soft case - apply anti-bacterial spray (such as Glen20).
- Wash your hands with anti-bacterial soap for 30 seconds, prior to picking up your guitar and repeat after packing away. Ensure hands are completely dry to avoid dampening strings.
- For the guitar body, a disposable towel dipped in warm water and soap (rung out) can be used to remove unwanted bacteria. Safe to use on nylon strings - keep water away from electric steel strings.
- Anti-bacterial spray can also be applied to a disposable towels for acoustic guitars, however, this is not suitable for electric guitars or around metal.
- For electric steel strings, place a small amount of hand sanitizer on a disposable towel and run up/down individual strings lightly.
- It is best to clean hardware with a soft cloth using only a very light amount of guitar polish. The polish can help to remove any dirt and bring the shine back. Leave no polish residue on the hardware, as this could corrode the metal slightly. Hard to reach areas can be cleaned using a cotton bud



DRUM CLEANING

GENERAL RECOMMENDATION

For drums and most accessories including, microphones, amps and stands, the cleaning process can be quite simple. Unless a particular material is prone to rust, anti-bacterial wipes and sprays can be safely used during this time for extra pre-caution.

DISINFECTANT CLEANING

- Drum heads: Anti-bacterial spray such as Glen20 can be safely applied to drum heads. Immediately dry with a disposable towel.
- Drum sticks: Anti-bacterial wipe or spray, follow up with drying.
- Drum seat: Anti-bacterial wipe or spray, follow up with drying.
- Cymbals: Cymbals require further care, although they don't get touched on a regular basis. For general cleaning, specific solutions can be purchased to polish cymbals - for disinfecting, we suggest warm water and soap only, drying immediately after.
- Microphone: For a deep clean, wipe down with anti-bacterial wipe, remove grill, brush with soapy water, remove foam carefully and soak both in warm soapy water. Take out and leave to dry overnight.
- Music Stand: Apply anti-bacterial wipes or spray and dry with a disposable towel. As these are handled and used on a regular basis, we recommend wiping down at the beginning and end of a rehearsal to show extra caution.

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