

Your Brass instrument needs to be cleaned before it can be returned to the school for the summer. You may do this process at school during brass cleaning time, or you may do it at home on your own. Either way, a dirty instrument will not be accepted for return.

1. Disassemble your instrument
  - a. Remove all slides. Keep careful track so that you will remember where each slide goes when you are done.
  - b. Trumpets, Euphoniums and Tubas remove valves and bottom valve caps, but do not take the valves apart. Horns leave the valves in the instrument.
2. Fill bathtub with enough warm (not hot) water to submerge the instrument. You can add baking soda or a tiny bit of dish soap (not dishwasher soap) into the tub.
3. Put some water into a plastic cup for the valves. Only use enough water so that the felts do not get wet.
4. Place a towel in the tub to keep from scratching both the tub and instrument.
5. Place the instrument and all the parts **except the valves** into the tub.
6. While the instrument is soaking, clean trumpet, euphonium, or tuba valves. Use a valve or mouthpiece brush.
7. Using the snake
  - a. Scrub the inside of all the tubing on the body of the instrument, especially the leadpipe which is always the dirtiest part of the instrument.
  - b. Repeat until the brush comes out clean.
  - c. If you can keep the parts you're working on underwater, it will help the brush work better.
  - d. When all of the tubing on the main body of your instrument is done, run some clean water through the instrument. Pour it down the bell and then carefully turn your instrument around so that the water ends up running out the other end. You may have to turn your instrument several times to get all of the water to come out.
  - e. When you've finished all the tubing on the main body of your instrument, place it outside the tub on a towel.
  - f. Repeat the same procedure for all the slides.
  - g. If the snake doesn't fit around tight curves, don't force it! Just pull it out and go in the other side. There may be some spots on your instrument that you just can't reach and that's OK. Just clean what you can.
  - h. When each slide is done, dunk it in the water to rinse, pour all of the water back out, then lay it back on your towel.
  - i. Trombone players don't forget to do both the inner and outer slide.
  - j. Clean valve bottom caps with an old toothbrush.
8. Reassembly
  - a. Dry all parts with a towel
  - b. Apply grease to slides and reassemble them into the body of the instrument. Wipe away any excess that squeezes out when you install the slide.
  - c. Trombones put slide oil or slide cream (not grease) on your main slide.

- d. Trumpets, euphoniums and tubas, put a small amount of grease on the bottom valve cap threads and install.
- e. Oil Valves
  - i. Trumpets and Euphoniums
    1. Place the valves carefully into the valve casings, being sure that they are in the correct place (the valves are each individually numbered and the numbers should face the trumpet mouthpiece, or face outward on the euphonium).
    2. Put several drops of oil (more than usual because they are completely dry) on the valve below the valve guide.
    3. Carefully tighten the top valve cap.

- ii. Horns

1. Remove top caps and put a few drops of heavy oil (bottle with the needle) on the top on the bearing plate.



2. Put a couple of drops of heavy oil underneath on the spindle.



3. Put a few drops of light oil (trumpet valve oil) down each tuning slide, blow air through the instrument and move the valves up and down to completely coat the valve.