

# How to Clean Your Trombone

By Christina Thompson, resident trombonist at Summerglenn Music

## Everyday cleaning

What you need:

1. Polishing cloth
2. Mouthpiece brush

After you play each day, gently wipe the fingerprints off your trombone with your polishing cloth. Then, clean your mouthpiece by pushing the brush down into the mouthpiece, and pulling it out.

## Slide cleaning (Done about every 2 weeks, more or less depending on how much you play.)

What you need:

1. Cleaning snake (the more flexible, the better)
2. Mouthpiece brush
3. Tub or large sink
4. Dish detergent
5. Plastic cups (for rinsing your slide and soaking your mouthpiece)
6. Soft surface on which to lay your slide (like a towel)

### Step 1 - Soak your mouthpiece.

Fill a plastic cup with hot water and a bit of detergent, and drop your mouthpiece in. Let it soak as you clean your slide, and then rinse it after you're done.

### Step 2 - Clean the inside of your inner slide.

To clean your inner slide, pull your entire slide out of the case and lock your slide. You'll clean the inner slide with the outer slide still on, to protect it from damage. Put a drop of detergent into each tube, and then add a bit of warm water. Feed the snake down one tube, and gently scrub with an up-and-down motion. Pull the snake out and do the same thing with the other tube. Don't try to push the snake all the way through your slide--it might get stuck! After scrubbing, rinse the slide until you can pour out clear water with no soap suds.

### Step 3 - Clean the outside of your inner slide.

Carefully pull your inner slide out and lay your outer slide gently on a towel. Put a drop of detergent on each stocking of your inner slide, and gently rub the detergent along the entire length of the slide. Rinse with warm water. When the slide squeaks when you rub it, it's clean!

### Step 4 - Clean the inside of your outer slide.

Carefully place your inner slide on the towel and pick up your outer slide. Put detergent and water into your outer slide, and scrub and rinse just like you did in Step 2.

### Step 5 - Finish Up! - Clean your mouthpiece and tuning slide(s), and lubricate.

Take your mouthpiece out of the plastic cup, scrub it with your mouthpiece brush, and rinse with warm water. If your tuning slide(s) have become difficult to move, pull them out and clean their outside surfaces like you cleaned the outside of the inner slide in Step 3.

Lubricate your slide and tuning slides with your favorite product. (I recommend *Slide-O-Mix* for slides and *Selmer Tuning Slide and Cork Grease* for tuning slides.)

☺ **Enjoy playing your nice, clean trombone!** ☺

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