

How To Clean A Brass Instrument With Valves

Cleaning The Mouthpiece

1. Soak the mouthpiece:

- If the mouthpiece is very dirty, it is a good idea to soak it in lukewarm soapy water.
- Scrub the outside of the mouthpiece. Use a damp, soapy cloth to clean the outside of your mouthpiece.

2. Get the inside clean with a mouthpiece brush:

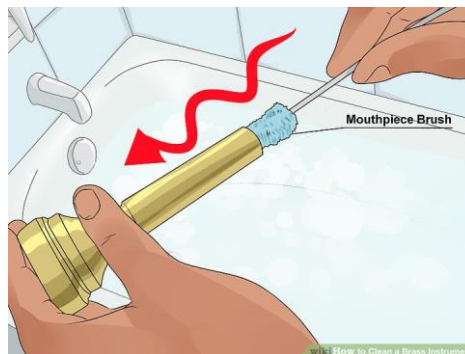
- Using a mouthpiece brush, apply soapy water first.
- Insert the brush into the mouthpiece and scrub away all the bacteria.

3. Rinse the mouthpiece:

- Fill a small container with clean water. Put the mouthpiece in the water to rinse off any soap.
- Alternatively, the mouthpiece can be rinsed under the tap.

4. Dry the mouthpiece:

- Dry off the mouthpiece with a clean cloth or paper towel.



Cleaning The Instrument

1. Disassemble the instrument:

- Remove the slides (if they are not stuck), valves and any other parts.
- Be careful not to lose any pieces.



Cleaning The Instrument (continued)

2. Give the instrument and slides a rinse:

- Fill a container with lukewarm soapy water. **Apart from the valves**, rinse the instrument and slides in the water.
- Avoid using water which is too hot, as this could damage the finish of the instrument.
- A bathtub can be used but remember to place a towel on the bottom of the tub, to avoid scratching the lacquered finish.
- Using a snake brush, clean the insides of all tubes **but in particular, clean the lead pipe** (this is the bit of tubing which the mouthpiece goes into).
- The valves can

3. Use the snake brush to clean the tubes:

- Using a snake brush, clean the insides of all tubes **but in particular, clean the lead pipe** (this is the bit of tubing which the mouthpiece goes into).
- Do not use anything else on the instrument as it will get stuck.
- The snake brush is a long, flexible brush that is designed for cleaning brass instruments.
- If you are cleaning a straight section of tubing, you can use a dowel with a cloth attached to the end (like woodwind instruments).



4. Lubricate the instrument:

- Use valve oil to lubricate the valves.
- Use slide cream to lubricate the slides (or at least the main tuning slide) if possible.
- Reassemble the instrument as each part is lubricated.
- Make sure the valves are inserted back in the correct order (there is usually a number on the valve – 1, 2, or 3, with 1 being the nearest valve to the mouthpiece receiver).

5. Dry the instrument with a lint free cloth:

- After cleaning and rinsing the brass instrument, a soft, lint free cloth can be used to dry it.
- Since brass instruments see plenty of moisture during their everyday use, it is not necessary to get it perfectly dry.

