

# Safe Cleaning of Instruments

## Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba:

1. Take the instrument apart (this includes slides, valve caps, springs)
  - a. Euphonium and Tuba be careful with springs!
  - b. Don't forget the bottom valve caps (Trumpets, Euphonium and Tuba).
  - c. Lay all the parts out on a towel so you know where things go once you need to put it back together.
2. Soak the instrument in the bathtub with soapy lukewarm water (err on the side of cool and use dishwashing liquid such as Dawn or Palmolive).
3. Use the snake to clean all the slides and valves. Run snake through the leadpipe.
4. Use a washcloth to clean the other portion of the slides and horn.
5. Rinse all parts of the horn (inside and out)
6. Dry on a towel while it is laying on the floor safely.
7. As you reassemble your instrument, use grease on slides and oil on valves
8. Use Q-tips to clean hard to reach areas
9. Clean mouthpiece with warm/soapy water with the mouthpiece brush

*\*\*\*IF you cannot remove a part of your instrument, do not force it, leave it on the instrument and clean per instructions. Continue cleaning the rest of the instrument.\*\*\**

## Clarinet, Saxophone, Oboe, Bassoon:

- Wash mouthpiece ONLY with warm soapy water (clarinet and saxophone).
- Remove any debris/white gunk from outside and inside the mouthpiece.
  - Soaking plastic saxophone mouthpieces in mouthwash is an acceptable form of cleaning. Clarinets may place the front part of the mouthpiece in mouthwash, but avoid getting the cork wet.
- Try to prevent the cork from getting very wet or wet at all.
- Throw away moldy or chipped reeds. Also throw away reeds if you have had any symptoms of illness (fever, cough, etc.)

## Flute:

- Swab the inside of the instrument thoroughly, including the head AND foot joint
- To sanitize the head joint:
  - Use an alcohol prep pad or cotton ball with hydrogen peroxide to wipe down the lip plate and inside the tone hole.
  - Follow the same process for the end of the head joint and opening of the neck of your flute
  - Do not submerge any part of your flute in any liquid for any type of "cleaning"