

Trombone Care and Maintenance

Updated 2013

Supplies:

1. Slide Cream ("Trombotine") or slide care solution ("Slide-O-Mix")
2. Tuning slide cream (different than trombone slide cream)
3. Misting bottle (small)
4. Mouthpiece brush
5. "Snake" cleaning tool
6. Clean rag

Before You Play:

1. Always rinse out your mouth with water
2. Make sure your hands are clean
3. Mist the inner slide with a spray bottle to activate the cream or Slide - O - Mix.

After You Play:

1. Empty the water from the water key before putting the trombone away.

Once a Week (or as needed):

1. Treat the slide using slide cream or Slide - O - Mix:
 - Remove the outer slide and wipe off the old cream with a clean rag.
 - Apply a small amount of cream below the stocking (the bottom 6") of each of the inner slides.
 - Use your fingers and the outer slide to work the cream evenly over the inner slide by moving the slide up and down several times.
 - Using a mist water bottle, spray the interior slide a few times and work it around with the outer slide.
 - If you are using Slide - O - Mix, follow the directions on the bottle.
2. Clean the mouthpiece out with a mouthpiece brush under warm running water. Make sure the brush is wet before putting it in the mouthpiece.

Once a Month:

1. Remove the tuning slide to apply new slide grease. Before applying a thin layer of grease, wipe off the old grease with a clean rag.
2. Remove the outer slide (carefully!) and clean the interior of the inner slide, lead pipe and tuning slide with the "snake" brush under running water. Make sure the brush is wet before putting it into the instrument.
3. Remove fingerprints from the exterior of the instrument with a polishing cloth.

Once a Year:

1. Take the instrument into the music store to have a technician sonic clean the interior of the instrument, check the slide alignment, check the cork on the water key, and remove dents.

WARNING:

1. NEVER leave anything extra (book, papers, music) on top of your trombone in the case when you close the lid. This can damage your instrument. Keep your book in its own folder.
2. NEVER leave your trombone unattended. Make sure it's in the case, resting on the floor or on a trombone stand.
3. Secure your mouthpiece inside the case. If you let it rattle around it can cause dents.