

# Reed Instrument Care Tips

Musical instruments are precise and finely-crafted works of art that can be easily damaged if not properly cared for. Therefore, proper instrument care and maintenance is vital for any musician who wishes to keep their instrument safe and protected. Like with any other kind of musical instrument, a well-maintained and cared-for reed instrument will have a much longer life than one that isn't.

Whether you are playing a flute, clarinet, bassoon, piccolo or even an oboe, there are several things you can do to preserve both your reed instrument and your reeds. Read on as we give you some useful and easy-to-implement tips on how to properly clean, store, maintain, and protect them.

## Caring For Your Reed Instrument

When it comes to your reed instrument protection, one of the most important things you should keep in mind is storing it in a weatherproof case — away from heat, direct sunlight and humidity — when not in use. But here are some additional tips you can follow:

- Before storing your reed instrument, make sure you carefully swab it to remove any moisture. It is recommended to wipe off any fingerprints as well, as they can damage the finish.
- Always place your instrument correctly and gently inside its case, never forcing it closed. Consider removing your neck strap beforehand as well.
- Never pick your instrument up by the keys.
- Oil your instrument's keys regularly using key oil. You can apply it with the help of a cotton swab, needle, or toothpick to help ensure you don't use too much.

## Caring For Your Reeds

Good reeds are hard to find. So when you do manage to find them, you need to handle them with care and do your best to extend their life. Here are some useful tips that can help make your reeds last much longer:

- When buying a new reed, unpack it carefully, avoiding contact with its tip.
- Before playing, make sure you moisten it first. Some musicians wet their reeds in warm water, while others use their mouths.
- Once the reed is moist, align its tip with the end of your instrument's mouthpiece and tighten the ligature screws.
- Never play a new reed for more than a few minutes during the first days you use it. This will allow for the reed to gradually get used to moisture and drying and it will increase its lifespan.

- When you are done playing, take it off your instrument's mouthpiece, rinse it thoroughly and wipe it dry to remove any excess moisture
- Always store your reeds separately, ideally in a dedicated reed case. A reed case will keep them flat as they dry and helps prevent warping. It will help protect them from getting chipped or damaged during transportation as well.
- Avoid playing the same reed every day, as this will cause it to wear rapidly.
- Rotate your reeds regularly.
- Before playing, don't forget to wipe off lipstick, lip balm, or any other lip product. It is highly recommended to brush your teeth and wash your hands beforehand as well.
- Make sure you clean your reeds semi-regularly using water and a mild detergent.
- Avoid exposing them to extreme changes in temperature or humidity, as reeds respond poorly to dramatic environmental changes.

## Getting Full Instrument Protection

While proper instrument care and maintenance can help protect both reeds and reed instruments, there are situations in life where it won't. Musical instrument insurance on the other hand, will safeguard your reed instrument no matter what. At [Clarion Associates](#), we have designed specialized and customizable musical instrument insurance policies that offer worldwide coverage and an array of [benefits](#) you won't find anywhere else.

Whether you are playing a bassoon, [piccolo](#), [oboe](#), clarinet, or [flute](#), we have the perfect musical instrument insurance solution for you. Reach out and contact us today for a [quote](#) to find out why Clarion is the leading choice for thousands of musicians and musical instrument owners throughout the world.