

How To Care For Your Violin

A finely-crafted violin, like all string instruments, can be a valuable investment both personally and professionally. Apart from the amount of money and time one spends to find and purchase the perfect violin, there is also sentimental value from the special bond created between musicians and their musical instruments. So doing everything to increase their playability and longevity can save one from great expense and sadness in the long run.

But violins and string instruments of all kinds are easily damaged if not properly cared for. Therefore, proper instrument care and maintenance is essential for ensuring their longevity. Continue reading for some of the best tips and tricks available for properly caring for and maintaining your violin or other string instrument.

Tips For Proper Care And Maintenance

Your violin is constructed with a variety of delicate materials that can be easily influenced by their environment. Changes in temperature and humidity can cause these materials to expand, contract, or even crack — and can ultimately affect its sound. Doing your best to protect it from such environmental factors can help increase its lifespan and preserve its sound.

Here are some useful and easy-to-follow instrument care tips that will help you do so:

- The first step in caring for your violin is to invest in a quality, durable, waterproof violin case. These cases are designed to protect your violin from extreme temperatures, humidity and help prevent accidental damage. When not in use, keep your instrument secure by storing it inside the case after removing the shoulder rest. Always ensure that the case is properly closed and latched.
- Avoid storing your violin or its case in direct sunlight, as well as very hot or cold areas. In a similar vein, never leave it unattended inside your car.
- Be mindful of seasonal changes, as these can expose your instrument to extreme temperature shifts that can cause damage.
- If you live in a place with high humidity or a dry climate, consider investing in a hygrometer and a humidifier or dehumidifier. The former will help you measure the level of humidity, while the latter will help you adjust it.
- When finished playing, use a soft lint-free soft cloth to gently wipe down your violin and its strings. This will keep it clean, removing the rosin dust and oils that can cause it to be sticky or even require re-varnishing.
- Don't put too much rosin on the bow hair if you don't want your violin to sound harsh and scratchy, especially if you want to avoid a rehair. Make sure you clean your bow after each playing session.
- Never use alcohol or any solvents to clean your violin as they can damage the varnish.

- Don't use hot water or furniture polish either, as both can weaken the glue or ruin the sound of your violin. Only use a specialized polish – and if you keep your violin clean, you'll only have to use it now and then.
- Always keep your pegs properly fitted – if they stick, they might need some peg drops, and if they slip, you might need to take your violin to a luthier.
- Always check your bridge's alignment. If it is improperly oriented, it could snap on the violin's surface, damaging the varnish.
- When not in use, loosen the bow to protect it from warping over time.
- Keep your strings clean, and make sure you change them when needed. Always change one string at a time to maintain proper tension over the bridge.

Protect Your Instruments

Although proper instrument care and maintenance can help protect your precious violin, it won't necessarily mean that nothing will happen to your instrument. Fires, floods, and even theft are impossible to prepare for and can happen at any time. Thankfully, there is a way to protect it fully. Musical instrument insurance is here to help safeguard your instrument and investment, offering you the peace of mind you need to focus on your music rather than worrying about the what-ifs of life.

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