



## MUSICAL INSTRUMENT - Cleaning & Care

We at Alabanza Music are actively addressing the recent developments and we remain diligent in maintaining a safe and healthy environment.

We have received questions about instrument care and best practices for sanitation, and so, have compiled the following information for you. **Please note that this information is not a comprehensive list and we will continue to update this as we learn more from our providers and manufacturers.**

Please be aware that this information is provided as a resource for ways to clean a variety of instruments typically found in an elementary general music classroom. This information is not intended to provide health care advice. Please look to your school health professional, **Ministry of Health website** and as a guide for more information.

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### Excerpt from NFHS, NAFME and the NAMM Foundation

**Instrument Cleaning:** The NFHS, NAFME and the NAMM Foundation recommend the following guidelines for handling musical instruments. These guidelines are designed for use by music educators and educators may use these guidelines when teaching students and parents how to clean instruments.

### Choosing a Disinfectant for Musical Instruments

1. Sterisol Germicide Solution can be safely used on plastics, hard rubbers, and metals.
2. Isopropyl alcohol wipes are safe for most materials. They are NOT recommended for use on hard rubber mouthpieces.
3. A solution made with 50% water and 50% white vinegar or 50% water and 50% hydrogen peroxide can be safely used on plastics, hard rubbers, and metals.

While other potential disinfectants, including alcohol, boiling water, and bleach can be used as general disinfectants, they are not recommended for use on mouthpieces or instruments due to their potential effect on skin, plastics, and metals.

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### Cleaning Unfinished Wood Instruments

Hello Everyone, we all have our concerns during this uneasy time and I wanted to address cleaning the natural, unfinished, wood instruments. These would include the **sticks, jingles, rattles, and sand blocks**. The best way to think about these for cleaning is treating them the same way you would an unfinished wood cutting board that a lot of us use for food prep. Also, it is much like hand washing – soap and water work best!

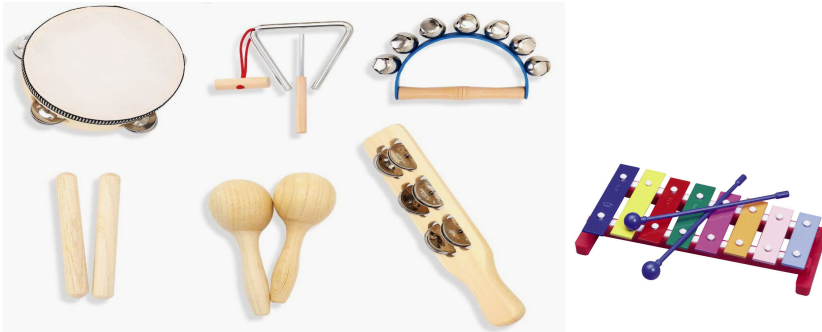
The basics:

1. Hot and soapy water
2. Do not dunk the sticks, etc into the water. Since these are unfinished, the more water they soak up or sit in the more chance they will dry out, crack and split.
3. Get your rag wet and soapy, wipe down the item. Use another damp rag to wipe the item off immediately and then set on a towel.
4. Drying – you want the items to air dry meaning air needs to circulate around the entire item. Once you have washed all the items, you can stand the items up angled against a wall or another hard stand to let them completely dry.

A few notes: If you use alcohol based products, you will run the risk of drying the wood out more quickly over time. You will also need to be careful washing the rattles and sand blocks. These both have glued items – the sand block have the glued on sandpaper, so be careful to only clean the wood and the rattles have a glued in plug that the glue will breakdown over time. This is not to stop you from cleaning them but to just be aware of the normal wear and tear on products while cleaning them.

If you Google “how to clean an unfinished cutting board” you will find a lot of information from posts to videos. Although all of the info would not be applicable to the instruments and this is not an official CDC information (please check their website for general best practices for all cleaning during this time), this article does have some good basic info on disinfecting wood: [Cleaning a wood cutting board](#)

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### **Cleaning Drums and percussion, movement props, mallets**

- **Basic Beat, Westco, and LP plastic egg shakers and chiquitas** can be cleaned with disinfecting wipes but should not be submerged in a cleaning solution or put in dishwashers. They are not water-sealed and will take on liquid.
    - *Note: the beads inside these products are non-toxic and safety tested, but they are metal shot, so don't react well with liquid, leading to messy leaks.*
  - **Plastic and other hard surface percussion instruments** (i.e. rhythm sticks, shakers, etc.) and **movement props** (i.e. handles on streamers, spot markers, toobaloos, etc.) may be cleaned with disinfecting wipes or sprays.
  - **Metal instruments** like jingle bells, tambourines, steel pans, and tongue drums may be wiped with disinfecting wipes, but be mindful of extra residue. Markings and stickers may need to be touched up or may show some wear if wiped.
  - **Rubber mallets** may be completely wiped with disinfecting wipes or sprayed. **Yarn and felt mallets** may have the shafts completely wiped and the heads can be wiped or sprayed but may get a little fuzzy and/or may have some color transfer as a result of cleaning this way,
  - **Fabric movement props** may be washed in the washing machine (although delicate fabrics like scarves should first be placed in a protective mesh laundry bag).
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### Yamaha Piano Keys

Guidelines for cleaning your keys and preventing damage! Yamaha acoustic and digital piano key tops are made of synthetic materials which may react adversely to various cleaning and disinfecting agents. We advise the following practices for cleaning and protecting your keys:

- **Avoid cleaners** (both liquid and saturated wipe-type cleaners) that contain harsh ingredients including alcohol (isopropyl), chlorine, ethanol, benzene, peroxide and salts. These ingredients contribute to discoloration and cracking.
- **If a player uses hand sanitizer** that contains any of the above ingredients, please make sure their hands are completely dry before touching the keyboard.
- **Using a microfiber cloth** dampened with lukewarm water, with a small amount of dish soap, and wrung out enough that water does not drip on the keys. Wipe down the keys in a 'toward the player' motion.
  - Using a second microfiber cloth dampened with lukewarm water, wrung out enough that water does not drip on the keys, wipe down the keys again in a 'toward the player' motion.
  - Finally, using a third, dried microfiber cloth, wipe down the keys in a 'toward the player' motion until all the keys are dry.
- **Keep the key cover closed** at all times when the piano is not in use.
- **Cleaning your hands before playing** is recommended and will ensure a high level of playability through the life of your piano