

## Brass Maintenance & Care

### Daily:

- Wash your mouthpiece with warm water and soap before and after inserting it in the instrument.
- Oil piston valves.
- Empty all water from the instrument before placing it back in its case.  
\*Wash your hands before playing can prevent unknown oil and dirt to damage on the instrument
- To avoid nasty materials in your instrument, rinse your mouth or brush your teeth before playing.
- Wipe instrument with a soft, damp cloth to remove dirt, oil and smudges.

### Weekly:

- Oil rotary valves by removing back caps and applying oil on the valve post.
- Apply slide cream on all tuning slides.
- Clean the lead pipe by giving it a quick brush with your snake brush.
- Check for any alignment issues or loose screws.

### Monthly:

- Check valve pads (piston instruments) or bumpers (rotary instruments) making sure that they are not deteriorated or overly compressed.
- Wash your instruments
  - Every three months
  - Remove all the tuning slides, valves, caps, felt and etc.
    - Remember how each part goes back into the instrument. Please do not drop parts because some may be malleable. This is a crucial step!
  - Categorize all parts. This will make the reassembly portion go smoothly.
    - Highly recommend lying parts on a towel.
  - Remove all grease from slides on the instrument with a soft cloth.
  - Fill a tub with warm water, add a mild liquid soap.
  - Carefully, soak the instrument and all the parts.
    - Lather, rinse, repeat.
    - If anything seems stuck, let it soak in the water for a long amount of time.
  - Dry, then lubricate valves and tuning slides before inserting them back into the instrument.

### Yearly:

- Seek a professional brass repair specialist to check on your instrument.
  - Services: Ultrasonically cleaning, smoothing out accessible dents, correcting alignments and etc.
  - Call beforehand to have a firm idea of the cost because some repairs can be expensive. Make sure you have the funds before handing your instrument over to the specialist. Save yourself a drive!