

How to Give Your Brass Instrument a Bath! (no more than once a year!)

1. Take your instrument apart – removing valves, slides, valve caps, etc. (it might be helpful to label each part so you don't have too much trouble putting it back together again afterwards)! Don't lose any pieces!
2. Fill your bath with gentle lukewarm water and add a few drops of dish soap.
3. Place your instrument inside the bath, on top of a towel so it doesn't get scratched.
4. Allow your instrument to soak for about 10-15 minutes.
5. Use your cleaning snake and valve brush to scrub the inside of your instrument and remove any build-up.
6. You should then drain the tub and run clean lukewarm water through the tubing until it runs clean.
7. Rinse your instrument again to remove any dirty water, and then dry with a clean towel or soft cloth. Shake out any excess water carefully and lay your pieces on a clean, dry towel to air dry overnight.
8. Make sure to rotate your instrument several times to make sure all the water has come out.
9. Apply slide grease to all small slides and valve oil to all valves when reassembling.
***Trumpets** – be sure to rotate your valves clockwise until they “lock” into position. You need to hear them click.
****Trombones** – be sure to use slide CREAM on your big slide and grease on your small slide.
*****Euphoniums/tubas** – be sure to put your valve springs back into place BEFORE putting your valves back in. Be sure to line up the valve guide with the groove inside your instrument. Don't force your valves into place.
10. Play-test the instrument to make sure everything has been put back in the right place!

→ **REMEMBER! NEVER USE HOT WATER ON YOUR INSTRUMENT – it will remove the shiny lacquer finish and leave your instrument dull and rusty.**

If you have trouble with any of these steps, please ask Ms. Lansky for help or email jlansky@lssd.ca.