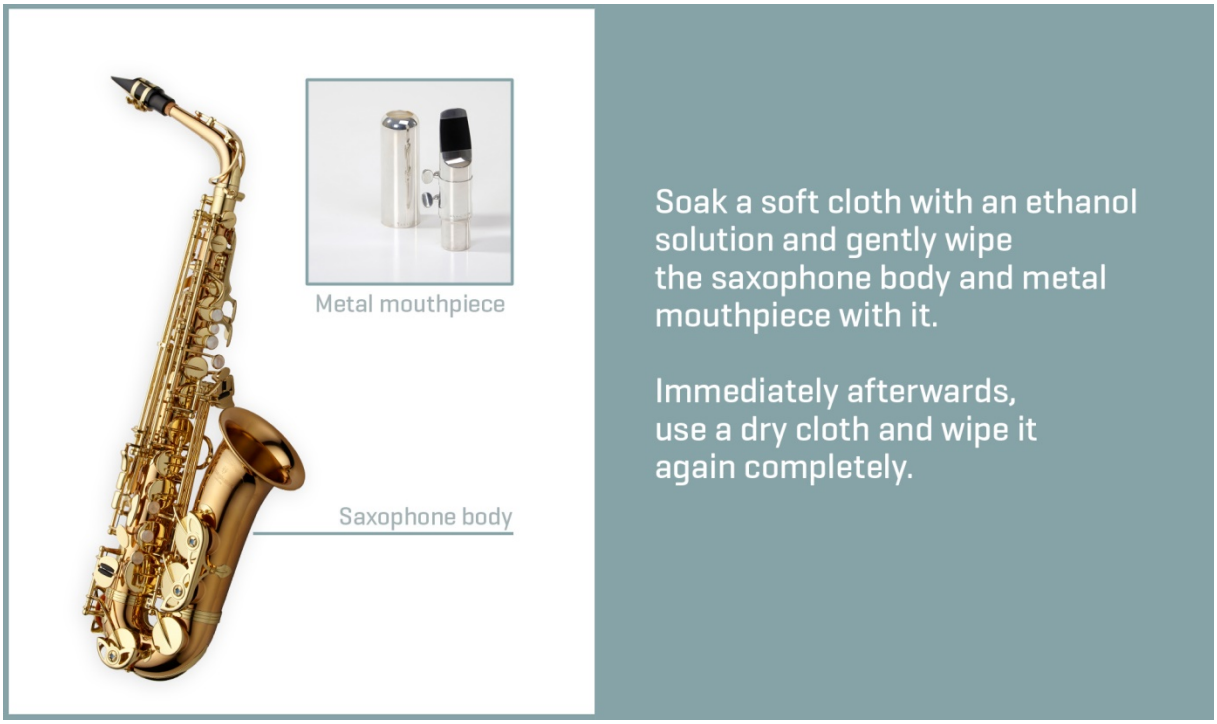
VALUABLE INSIGHTS

Dear musicians,

More and more musicians attach great importance to the disinfection of their musical instruments. However, the use of appropriate chemicals should only be done with the utmost caution. Some disinfectants, especially those based on chlorine, have been proven to cause tarnishing of the surfaces as well as damage and impairment of the instruments function!

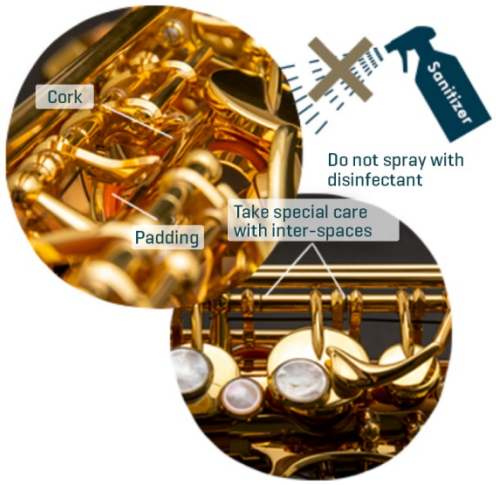
Intensive long-term tests by the Japanese saxophone manufacturer YANAGISAWA, in which the reaction of lacquered surfaces of saxophones to disinfectants was closely examined, now provide valuable insights, which we have compiled below.
Observing the recommendations should help you to protect your valuable instrument from damage and deterioration caused by disinfectants and to keep it in good condition.



ATTENTION!

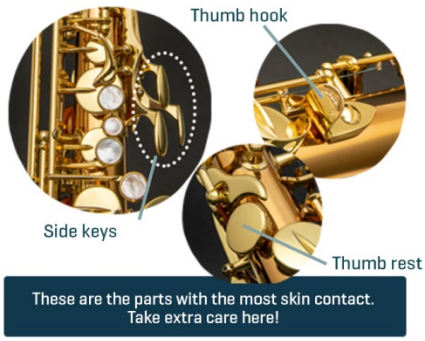
Do not use chlorine-based disinfectants on your saxophone!

The ingredients in chlorine-based disinfectants could lead to corrosion, damage and/or tarnishing of the metal, but could also cause tarnishing or peeling of the lacquer.

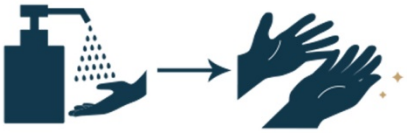


DO NOT spray or apply disinfectant directly and never immerse parts or the instrument in disinfectant!

Do not apply or spray the disinfectant directly onto the instrument or the keys.
Do not immerse anything in disinfectant either.
If the chemicals get into the key mechanism, they can damage the metal and impair the function of the instrument. Padding or cork parts can also be damaged if they come into contact with disinfectant.



Only touch instruments when the hands have been carefully and completely dried.



Make sure that your hands and fingers are dry after disinfecting before touching the instrument! Also make sure that you do not rub too hard when wiping with a dry cloth!

When disinfecting your hands and fingers, make sure they are dry before touching the instrument. If the disinfectant still remains on your hands and/or fingers, the parts that touch your fingers in particular, such as the thumb rest, thumb hook and side keys, may corrode and deteriorate. If the disinfectant has stuck to the instrument, use a dry cloth and wipe it off. However, do not rub too hard so as to avoid scratching the surface.

After disinfection, ingredients of the disinfectant that still adhere to your hand and/or fingers can react with hand sweat or other substances and accelerate corrion of the lacquer

Do not use chlorine-based disinfectants or heat treatment for ebonite!

Do not use chlorine- or ethanol-based disinfectants on ebonite mouthpieces and Yany SIXS blade screws (the spacers are made of ebonite). Also, do not attempt to disinfect the instruments using boiling water or other heating methods. This could cause tarnishing and/or deterioration.

If you want to disinfect an ebonite mouthpiece, wash it carefully with a neutral detergent in cold water and then rinse it completely under clear, running water.

Here, a disinfectant sprayed in the room has stuck to metal parts of a case. What went unnoticed at first led to damage to the lock of the case after about a month, as can be seen here in this picture

Do not put your instrument in the case while it is still wet! Wipe out the inside of the case after drying so that any residues of the disinfectant do not react with the surface of the instrument and cause damage.

Take care with instrument cases too!

You must also be careful when disinfecting saxophone cases. If you spray disinfectant into the case, make sure that the case is completely dry again before you put your instrument into it.

Even if the case is dry, residues of the disinfectant may still remain. Depending on the ingredients, the instrument could still be damaged in a well-sealed case.

Text: Yanagisawa Wind Instruments Co., Ltd. ; Udo Werdeling
Photos: Yanagisawa Wind Instruments Co., Ltd. ; GEWA Music