

Cleaning Microphones – Elements / Windscreens

It is highly recommended to clean your microphones on a routine basis – which will depend on usage (after each use, weekly, monthly). You'll know when microphones need to be cleaned when their output is lower than usual or starts sounding muddy. Or it may be time to clean/sanitize your microphones (microphones and windscreens can be a breeding ground for germs and bacteria). Here are some tips to help keep your microphones sanitized and in good working condition.

Cleaning Microphones – Dynamic

- The best way to clean a microphone is to remove the microphone Grill (especially if the Grill is easy to unscrew). Use Mild / Soapy water and a soft bristle toothbrush as this should be suitable enough to get the Grill cleaned (gently scrub the Grill as needed).
- If you are not able to easily remove the Grill, and have to use a lot of force – stop and read the owner's manual for further instructions.
- For those mics that do not have a Grill that is easily removed, cleaning will have to be done with more care. Use a dampened toothbrush (soft bristles) and gently scrub the Grill while holding it upside down.
- Always let the Grill dry completely prior to re-installing on the mic.



Do not Use: Bleach, hand sanitizers, hydrogen peroxide, or rubbing alcohol to clean microphones.
Do not Use: Any type of “abrasive” cleaning tools – wire brush, scouring pads, hard plastic bristle brush.
Use: Mild Soapy Water. If you use Isopropyl Alcohol, make sure to remove it with a damp cloth.
Use: Clorox Disinfecting Wipes can be used on the microphone handles only – not on the Grill or Elements.

Cleaning Microphones – Condensers

- Keep in mind that even the smallest amounts of water or other cleaning liquids can damage a condenser microphone's Grill and / or Element.
- The procedure is pretty much the same as Dynamic microphones for Condenser microphones with removable Grills.
- To clean condenser microphones that do not have removable Grills, use a soft bristled toothbrush as well, but the toothbrush should remain dry – never dampened! **Caution:** Do not get any type of liquid inside the Grill.



Cleaning Microphones Tip

If you are using “Headworn” microphones in a Large Theater, it is recommended to use windscreens. Although this may or may not keep the microphone Grill completely clean – it will at least make it easier for the technician to clean the spit, makeup, and other debris/excrements off the microphones. Clean the windscreens daily!



Typical supplies
used for cleaning
microphone grills.

Use Caution when cleaning tiny wireless headset Grills, as you don't want to worsen the situation. The Grills are extremely small, and the slightest bit of dirt, dried saliva, or other debris can clog them up quickly. The Headset microphone's Grill is only about 1/4 – 3/8” in diameter.

Wireless Headset
Grill / Element



Examples of Small and Large
Microphone Elements



Keeping your microphones cleaned not only ensures good hygiene, but keeps the microphones working at their optimal performance.