

How to bathe your brass instrument:

- Fill your bathtub with warm (NOT HOT) water. Hot water may damage the lacquer on your instrument.
- Add dish detergent (such as Dawn or Joy) to create a nice bubble bath.
- While the bathtub fills, remove the slides from your instrument and gently place them in the tub. Horns should also remove the caps on each valve and soak them. You may choose to fill the sink with warm, soapy water for your slides instead of putting them in the tub. Trumpets should also remove valves and set them aside because most trumpets have felt pads that should not get wet.
- Gently set the instrument in the tub. Make sure there is enough water to cover and fill the tubing. The bell does not need to be covered, but the main body of instrument should be.
- Let the instrument soak for 20-30 minutes to loosen any gunk inside. If possible, use an instrument snake to clean out the slides and particularly the lead-pipe (the first section of tubing after the mouthpiece).
- Wipe off the outsides of the slides to clean off built-up grease.
- Thoroughly rinse out all slides and the instrument itself with warm water. Make sure you get all of the water out (this may require some tipping and slow spinning of slides and instrument to make certain it is empty). Dry off the outsides of the slides and the instrument to avoid water spots. Remember you don't need to worry about letting the inside dry- it has water in it all the time when you're playing!
- Re-grease all of your slides and put them back in the instrument. Re-oil your valves as well.
- Enjoy your newly cleaned instrument!