



How to Look After Your Violin

So you've got a new violin, now what should you do to make sure it stays looking nice and performing at its' best.

You'll notice that we always supply a duster with a violin, it's free because we feel so strongly about the first tip we're going to give you.

1. **Keep your Violin Clean.** After you have finished playing use the duster to remove any rosin dust that has landed on the top of the violin around the bridge area. I also wipe the strings where the bow touches. Rosin is very necessary but it is acidic. If you leave it on the varnish it will eventually eat its way into the surface and then it becomes very difficult if not impossible to remove. A quick wipe is all that is needed to keep your new instrument looking and sounding at its best. While you wipe the violin it's a good idea to wipe the stick of the bow. "Don't wipe the hair though!" Rosin sticks to the bow too and it looks unsightly when the residue builds up.
2. **Loosen your Bow when you are not using it.** The little screw at the end of the bow causes the "Frog" to slide up and down the stick and tensions the bow hair. The hair should be about the thickness of a pencil away from the stick at the middle of the bow when you play. When you have finished playing you should unwind the screw so that the hair almost touches the stick. If you don't loosen the tension on the hair then you risk stretching the hair or taking the curve out of the bow stick. If that happens you will find that you cannot tension the bow hair correctly and your playing will suffer. It is an expensive business re-hairing or re-springing a bow so that simple little tip can save many pounds and lots of inconvenience.
3. **Keep your violin safe.** When you are not using your violin put it back into its' case and make sure you fasten the lid. So many good violins are damaged because people do silly things. They lift up the case without having the lid fastened. The lid falls open and out pops the violin onto the hard floor. Or they put the violin on a chair, forget it's there and sit on it. Don't you be one of the silly ones. The safest place for your violin is in its' case, unless it's tucked under your chin of course.
4. **Don't let your violin get too hot.** Your violin is glued together (there are no screws) with something called "Hide Glue". If it gets too hot then it comes unstuck and your violin will crack open and warp. Leaving your violin in a car on a sunny day can cause quite severe damaged. If it's too hot or cold for you then it's probably too hot or cold for your violin.