

Care of Peter Hess© Singing Bowls and Cymbals

Clean, Polish, and Protect

General care tips for metal singing bowls and accessory items:

- Wipe regularly with a soft dry cloth slow the accumulation of oils, dirt, and dust.
- If item becomes wet or damp (from cleaning or otherwise) wipe dry thoroughly and immediately.
- All items will develop patina over time. To prevent this and maintain shine, clean every 2-3 months.
 - use discretion cleaning high-shine instruments such as Zen/Assam, and on decorative features such as the darkened outer edge of Bengali bowls – test an area before polishing
- To keep the brand sticker intact prevent it from getting wet, and avoid scrubbing that area.

Cleaning with contemporary methods:

- A: Plain dishwashing liquid with a scratch-free sponge.
- B: (or) Mild, scratch-free brass polish with a scratch-free sponge.

Cleaning with the traditional Nepalese method:

1. Mix rice straw ashes with mustard oil.
2. Apply to the surface of the instrument, and rub away with a cloth to clean and polish.
 - Hand-hammered singing bowls can be treated in this slow and meditative way to enhance the player's connection and familiarity with the instrument.

To remove heavy stains (test an area first):

1. Mix 1 cup (150-200ml) cheap vinegar with 4-5 tablespoons salt.
2. Let this blend soak on the surface for 3-5 minutes to provoke a galvanic reaction.
3. Thoroughly rinse the bowl with water so no salt or acid remains.
4. Rub the bowl down with a soft cloth.

Protect the metal surface to combat corrosion:

- After the surface has been fully cleaned and all residue rubbed/rinsed away, dry thoroughly and coat very thinly with mustard oil (traditional oil used for this purpose).
 - Alternatives: Coconut oil, beeswax, or olive oil.
- Less oil is better, so start small and wipe away excess. Start with less than one drop.
- To protect a fresh, display-ready finish, handle with soft gloves.

Use, Transport, and Storage

Avoid uneven and undue stress:

- Provide even support (especially for large bowls) – carry from the bottom and store upright.
- Nest or stack bowls with caution, minding the weight and stress on each bowl.
- Always protect with soft cloth or paper during storage, stacking, or transport.
- Maintain dry conditions and avoid long term storage especially in damp areas.
- Set them down gently on protected surfaces; avoid clanging and banging.
 - Zen/Assam bowls and cymbals are especially fragile
- Strike gently. Beating on instruments carelessly with hard objects can cause damage.

Limited Warranty

Singing bowls should be handled as breakable items and are only covered for defects in workmanship. Peter Hess bowls are inspected multiple times before being offered for sale, and as such defects are not generally encountered (whereas antique bowls are not guaranteed in any case). Blemishes and minor scratching do not affect the sound quality and are not considered defects. Any concerns should be reported in writing, immediately upon receipt.