

Silk Swab Care Guide

Longevity and Performance Optimization

Mulberry silk is prized for its softness, sheen, and durability. Derived from the cocoons of the *Bombyx mori* silkworm — whose diet consists exclusively of mulberry leaves—this silk is naturally hypoallergenic, breathable, and exceptionally strong. All Genuwind Customs Swabs are woven from 100% Mulberry silk to preserve its remarkable absorbent qualities.

Understanding the unique properties of Mulberry silk will help you care for your swab properly and ensure its optimal performance over time.

Frequency

For most musicians, washing once every six months is usually sufficient to maintain cleanliness and performance. However, if you perform more frequently or in humid environments, consider laundering your swab more often. Always use your judgment if the fabric becomes visibly or texturally

Detergent

Use an enzyme-free, pH-neutral, fragrance-free delicate wash; avoid optical brighteners and softeners. Test colorfastness first. In-house, we use Woolite Delicates. This detergent effectively cleans without dulling silk's natural luster or compromising our environmentally-friendly dyes.

If you prefer an alternative detergent, try to follow these guidelines:

1. Test First: Spot-test a section of the silk to check for adverse reactions.
2. Gentle & pH-Neutral: Avoid formulas that could weaken or dull silk fibers.
3. No Harsh Additives: Steer clear of bleach, fragrances, optical brighteners, or enzymes.
4. Rinse: Thoroughly rinse, even if using a no-rinse detergent.
5. Compatibility: Use a detergent compatible with hand-washing.

Laundering Instructions

A. Hand Washing

1. Pre-Treatment

- Inspect for visible stains and pre-treat with a small amount of detergent.

2. Water Temperature

- Stick to cool water ($\leq 30^{\circ}\text{C}$ / 86°F). Excess heat may shrink or weaken silk fibers.

3. Detergent Usage

- Dose according to chosen detergent instructions.
- Swirl gently to disperse the detergent evenly.

4. Soaking

- Submerge the swab and let it soak for 3–5 minutes.
- Do not extend the soak time unnecessarily, as natural protein fibers can be sensitive to prolonged exposure.

5. Gentle Agitation

- Gently move the swab through the water to lift dirt. Avoid scrubbing or wringing.

6. Rinse

- Drain the soapy water and refill with cool water.
- Continue rinsing until the water runs clear and no detergent remains.
- In hard-water areas, finish with a brief distilled-water rinse to avoid mineral residue.

B. Drying

1. Remove Excess Water

- Gently press the fabric between clean, dry towels to absorb moisture.
- Avoid wringing or twisting, which can damage silk fibers.

2. Hang to Dry

- Choose a place with moving air, away from direct sunlight and heat.
- Hang the swab on a non-absorbent cord.
- Leave out until fully dried.

