

## 5 Guitar Maintenance Tips

### **1. Restring Frequently and Properly.**

To maximize guitar tone and longevity of your instrument, it's important to properly and frequently restring your guitar. After sustained practice and use, guitar strings lose their tone quality and begin to sound dull losing their "brighter" frequencies. Restringing properly is key, as an improper restring can cause a string to break shortly after restringing and can put additional stress on your guitar's neck. If you are unsure how to properly restring your guitar, a video link below is provided. We recommend restringing your guitar every 3 to 4 months or every 1 to 2 month for more serious players.

For strings we recommend D'addario's or Dunlop strings:

D'addario: <https://amzn.to/34yXo46>

Dunlop: <https://amzn.to/38ptUqK>

For guidance in restringing: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=iNalU\\_61IYk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iNalU_61IYk)

### **2. Clean Your Guitar and Use Fretboard Treatment Between String Changes.**

Cleaning your guitar is essential to maintaining a beautiful instrument and ensuring the integrity of the wood. Your guitar can become dirty from the sweat in our hands and arms. A dust like debris can also form between your fretboard and body of the guitar due to the use of a guitar pick. The best way to treat the body of the guitar is to use guitar polish. Guitar polish refreshes the lacquer coating on the wood and should only be used on these lacquered surfaces. For the fretboard, use a specific fretboard treatment solution. A fretboard treatment will deep clean the porous fretboard and enrich the exposed wood with vital oils. Wiping your guitar with a soft cloth after use and washing your hands before you play is a great way to prevent build up on your instrument.

For cleaning your instrument we recommend Dunlop products available here:

<https://amzn.to/3nEFgO4>

### **3. Be Aware of Temperature and Humidity Changes**

Being the guitar is constructed from wood, it's important to avoid exposing your instrument to temperature changes. Prolonged exposure to extreme temperature or humidity changes can actually warp the wood and effect or damage the playability of the instrument. Do not leave you instrument in any area where it is exposed to the elements. When not in use, it's best to have it on a stand or in a case inside your home.

### **4. Check for Loose Hardware or Electrics.**

Be sure to check the hardware every few weeks. For acoustic guitars this mostly means tuning peg and the bridge or nut. For electric guitars be sure to also check the surface level electrics

(pick ups, pick up switch, knobs, and input jack). If any hardware or electrics are not fastened properly they can be easily damaged or broken. Checking your instrument every 2 weeks can help prevent busted components that can be expensive and tedious to replace.

#### **5. Have Your Guitar Set-Up by a Professional.**

Over time temperature changes and extended use your guitar will probably cause your instrument to lose its intonation. Intonation is a musical term that refers to how in tune your instrument is. On guitar, this is determined by adjusting the distance between the bridge and nut of the guitar. A professional can check this and tweak the bridge saddles of each string to ensure every note on the fretboard is as close to in tune as possible. A professional will also check the angle of your guitar neck (neck relief) and string action (distance between the strings and fretboard), and will insure your instrument is optimal to play.