

CLEANING SUPPLIES



alcohol - denatured or isopropyl (99%)

Isopropyl alcohol (with a concentration lower than 99%) and rubbing alcohol (even 91%) contain additives that leave a residue and take longer to dry. Denatured alcohol and isopropyl (99%) are cheap, clean and effective. You can find both at your local hardware, hypermarket store or online.



head cleaning swabs

There are several options for swabs used to clean video deck heads. The pointed ones are helpful for grooves and ridges that collect tape debris (but make sure the cotton is firmly packed, like a surgical swab vs. a standard Q-tip). The Chamois swabs work well for gently cleaning dirty tape heads, but you can also use Texwipe 304 clothes as well. Clothes help to prevent you from breaking or damaging the heads. For DV decks, since the parts are so small, the swabs are easier to maneuver carefully.



DV head cleaning tape

Tape cleaning cassettes using a white or green long-fiber paper material named Pellon is the easiest way to clean DV decks and works well for light/regular cleaning. For a heavily contaminated or dirty deck, you'll want to manually clean it with the supplies listed above. A/V archivists are still divided on the use of cleaning tapes. In general, as long as the tapes are only used once (beginning to end) and only as instructed, there shouldn't be a problem. However, once a cleaning tape has passed along the heads, the dirt/debris it collects can damage the tape heads if it is run through the deck again.

For detailed instructions and training videos on cleaning decks, please see the "Deck Inspection & Cleaning" section.