

Fountain Pen Cleaning & Care Tips

Nibs are the metal, pointed writing tip of fountain pens and they allow you to control the look of your line as it is drawn on the paper. Always keep the cap on your fountain pen when not in use. Eventually, nibs will become stained with dried ink as you use them and cleaning them is an important part of maintaining your fountain pen.

While there are commercial cleaning solutions you can use, soap and water works just fine. Fill a cup with warm (not hot) water and a drop or two of dish soap. Gently rub the nib with a paper towel dampened in this solution. Do not use solvents, hot water or excessively scrub the nib. If stubborn dried ink remains, the nib should be soaked in warm water with a little dish soap and gently scrubbed with a *soft* bristle toothbrush. Avoid soaking the nib for long periods of time as rust can occur.

Remember to routinely clean you converter pump if you are not using disposable inks. You may want to clean between different inks also to avoid unexpected colors or results. Mixing different types of inks can cause clogs or even inks that disappear on the page over time.

The converter can be cleaned in the same warm water and dish soap solution. Fill the converter with soapy water and flush into a disposable or glass cup that will not be stained by any residual ink. Flush several times with soapy water and then flush with clean water. Place a folded paper towel in the bottom of a cup and place you assembled pen, nib side down, in the cup over night. The paper towel in contact with the nib will draw any excess water out of the reservoir, feeding tube and nib. Refill with ink and enjoy.

Although converters can be removed and reinstalled, it is recommended to limit the number of times you do this. Repeated reinstallation can widen the seal and lead to leaks. The converter can be filled and cleaned without being removed. Simply use the same method for loading ink to draw warm soapy water into the reservoir as described in the cleaning method above. Converters are inexpensive and it is a good idea to have an extra one or two on hand.