

How to Clean a CD or DVD Disc

If your DVD skips, stops, or won't load, the problem may be as simple as eliminating some dirt, dust or greasy, sticky smudges or fingerprints. There is a safe and easy way to remove greasy or sticky fingerprints and smudges, but please follow these instructions. Using an incorrect technique can permanently damage the disc.

- To hold the CD, insert a finger or thumb inside the center hole or handle it by the edges, but ***never touch the shiny surface.***
- **Always** use either a clean, soft cloth or a clean microfiber cloth. ***Never use a paper towel or any paper product; these products often have particles that will scratch the surface.***
- **Always** wipe a DVD or CD from the center of the disc to the outside edge in a straight line. ***Never wipe in a circular motion.***
- **Always** use a **1:1** mixture of **rubbing alcohol** (isopropyl) and water. It evaporates quickly without leaving any residue. Simply dab a small, clean cotton cloth into the mixture and gently wipe in straight lines from the center of the disc to the outside edge. To dry the DVD or CD, just let it sit for a moment or two in a vertical position. For difficult cleaning situations such as soda, you can use **window cleaner** (Windex®). Spray the window cleaner onto a clean, soft cloth instead of spraying it directly on the DVD. ***Never use strong solvents or acetone, as they will permanently damage the surface***

Do not try to repair scratches. If the DVD still skips, stops, or won't load, please let us know when you return it to the Library so that we can resurface and polish the disc. While you have the non-working DVD or CD checked out, you may call us (614-486-2951) to ask if we can locate or reserve a different copy for you.