

# The Piano Owner's Heads-Up Guide to Important Piano Maintenance

## Focus On: Cleaning Under the Keys



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**One of the most unsanitary places in your home may be right beneath your fingertips, lurking below the keys of your piano.** As shown in the above photo, a disgusting mixture of dust, cat fur, dried flakes of skin, old toothpicks, etc., accumulates underneath the keys of the typical piano, sometimes for decades at a time, until a piano technician takes note and recommends that the instrument be given a professional cleaning.

When this debris is allowed to remain in a piano, it not only "gums up the works," but it poses a health threat, in that every time a note is played, the resulting air movement swirls dust mites and particles into the air surrounding the pianist. For anyone with allergies, this constant exposure to contaminants can make playing a dirty piano an unpleasant and unhealthy experience.



*Removing the Keys*



*Removing the Debris*

To remove the layer of dust and filth which has sifted down in between the keys over the years, the piano must first be carefully disassembled by the technician to the point at which the keys may be safely removed and put temporarily aside.

With the keys out of the way, a vacuum and brush are employed to remove unwanted material, while leaving important felts in place.



Once the keybed of the piano has been thoroughly cleaned, and felt parts have been examined for signs of insect or mouse damage or excessive wear and tear, the piano may be reassembled so that it may be enjoyed with the knowledge that it is cleaner inside than it has been for years.

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