

Keep Your Computer Clean

Computer:

Dust is a problem that affects everyone no matter where you live and even more if you live in a area where the dust is bad. If you have not cleaned the inside of your computer case in 6 months or longer than you need to get right on it. Dust build up can cause hardware to clogup and stop running and, if dust gets into your cd/dvd/floppy drives you can end up with ruined disks and drives.

Regular cleaning (at least twice a year) with canned, compressed air and a small brush will save you money and time.

Start by unplugging your system from it's power source. Open the computer case. Then start from the top and brush all the dust off that you can with the paintbrush and work your way down to the bottom of the case. Brush all the dust into a pile and use a piece of paper as a dust pan and remove the dust. Then take the can of compressed air and blow out your cd drive and floppy drive then start from the top again and blow the system down to the bottom of the case. Stop every 10 seconds or so and take a damp cloth and wipe the dust up on the bottom of the case Keep it up until you have all the dust cleaned up. Use a Q-tip or pencil to block the fan blades so they do not turn while you blow them off.

Even if you don't open the computer case, at least clean as much as you can.

If you can, place your computer on a surface other than the floor. While this may crowd your desk area a bit, it is better for the computer since air will circulate better helping keep the computer cooler and will make keeping it clean easier.

Keyboards and mice:

Keep your keyboards and mice clean using a wet (but not dripping) disinfectant towlette (available in popup containers at any grocer store). Carefully brush all dust and debris from the keyboard before using the towlette. These disinfecting towlettes have the added advantage of, well, disinfecting.

Monitors:

Never use plain or soapy water to clean your monitor. There are products on the market especially meant for cleaning monitor screens – use only those. You can use the disinfecting towlettes to clean all other parts of your monitor, just not the screen.