



ALWAYS FOLLOW
MANUFACTURER
CLEANING AND
MAINTAINENCE
GUIDELINES

CARING FOR YOUR EQUIPMENT

Now that you've invested in a telescope and a pile of accessories; you'll want to protect them. Generally, astronomical equipment doesn't need constant attention, a few simple habits will keep it performing well and reduce the risk of expensive damage.

PRACTICAL ASTRONOMY GUIDE #8

This guide is designed to help you protect, maintain and safely store your astronomical equipment, ensuring it remains in good working order and ready for your next observing session.

CLEANING

OPTICS

Optical surfaces are the most delicate part of your telescope. Keep dust caps fitted whenever the telescope or accessories are not being used, and store eyepieces with their caps in place. Avoid touching optical surfaces with your fingers. Don't clean optics simply because you can see a small amount of dust. A little dust has very little effect on performance, while unnecessary cleaning introduces the risk of scratching or damaging coatings. When cleaning is genuinely necessary, use an appropriate blower and follow the manufacturer's recommended cleaning procedure.

MECHANICS

Mounts, focusers, tripods and other mechanical components are designed to be robust, but they still benefit from sensible handling. Check screws, knobs and fittings periodically for looseness. Tighten fittings firmly, but don't overtighten them. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations for lubrication and maintenance.

DUST IS EASIER TO
REMOVE THAN SALIVA.
USE A BLOWER, NOT
YOUR BREATH.





**PROTECT IT FOR
THE DRIVE.
DRY IT AT HOME.**

POST-IMAGING / OBSERVATION SESSION

PHASE 1: AT THE OBSERVING SITE

The priority when packing up is to protect the equipment during transport, rather than trying to complete all maintenance before you leave. Before loading the car, replace caps and covers on optical equipment and gently remove any excessive surface moisture. If any equipment is still damp with dew, avoid sealing it immediately in an airtight container where possible. A little air circulation will already help the equipment to acclimatize to the temperature and humidity inside your vehicle.

PHASE 2: WHEN YOU GET HOME

If it's late, resist the urge to go straight to bed. Unload all equipment and remove everything from the transport cases and bags; give everything an opportunity to dry naturally in a dry, well-ventilated room before putting it away and into storage. Remove dust caps so that any moisture trapped underneath can evaporate. Leave cases and soft bags open and allow to dry if they have become damp inside. Once everything is dry, replace optical caps and return equipment to its normal storage configuration. Don't store damp equipment in sealed containers until dry. If you've brought cold equipment into a warm house, condensation may form as it warms up. This is another reason not to immediately seal equipment away after returning home.



FINGER-TIGHT IS
TIGHT ENOUGH.
IF IT WON'T COME
APART, DON'T FORCE
IT - USE A RUBBER
STRAP WRENCH.

THREADED CONNECTIONS

Threaded components can become surprisingly difficult to separate after being assembled for some time. This is particularly common in astrophotography imaging trains, where several extension tubes, spacers, filter holders and adapters may be screwed together to achieve the required backfocus.

Changes in temperature can cause threaded components to tighten against one another, while small amounts of dirt or moisture can make the problem worse. Avoid using excessive force or gripping delicate components with pliers or other tools that can damage their surfaces.

A rubber strap wrench can provide useful additional grip without marking or damaging the equipment. If a connection has become stuck, use two strap wrenches where appropriate so that you can apply controlled opposing force to the two components without transmitting unnecessary stress through the rest of the imaging train.

Once separated, inspect and clean the threads if necessary, before reassembling them. Avoid overtightening threaded components - the connection only needs to be secure enough to prevent it loosening during use.



TRANSPORT & STORAGE

Most equipment suffers more from poor handling and storage than from normal use. Use appropriate cases or padded containers when transporting telescopes, mounts and optical accessories.

Secure equipment so that it cannot move around during transport.

At home, store equipment somewhere dry and reasonably stable. Avoid unnecessary exposure to extremes of temperature, humidity and direct sunlight. For larger or more delicate equipment, consider how it will be moved before assembling it. A telescope that is awkward to carry is much more likely to be dropped or knocked.

FROM PADDED BAGS
TO HARD CASES,
THERE ARE PLENTY OF
OPTIONS TO FIT ALL
BUDGETS

ABOUT NSO

Our Vision

We envision a world where anyone with an interest in astronomy can begin their journey with confidence and enjoy rewarding first light experiences. Where choosing equipment is exciting rather than overwhelming, expert guidance is always within reach, and every astronomer has a trusted partner throughout their journey under the stars.

Our Commitment

We believe our responsibility doesn't end with a sale. We are committed to supporting our customers throughout their astronomy journey.

- Expert Guidance
- Carefully Selected Stock
- Accessible Value
- Long-Term Partnership

