

What Is the Best Way to Clean a Trackball Mouse?



Trackball mice provide greater precision and less wrist strain than traditional mice. However, like other computer accessories, they can accumulate dirt and debris that can impair their performance. If your trackball mouse isn't working as well as before, it may be time to clean it.

Can You Clean a Trackball Mouse?

Cleaning your trackball mouse roller ball is a simple task that helps maintain performance and longevity. It reduces friction and wear caused by dirt, debris, and dust accumulation, improves mouse comfort, and resolves issues such as jerky cursor movements. Routine cleaning also promotes a hygienic workspace.

Signs Your Trackball Mouse May Need to be Cleaned or Lubricated

Signs of a dirty trackball include slow response, stickiness, difficulty in movement, loud noises, and residue on the surface.

- **Difficulty moving the cursor smoothly**
A jumpy or erratic cursor indicates that your trackball needs cleaning. Friction from particulate matter build-up can also cause your cursor to move slower than usual.
- **Dirty or discolored ball**
Over time, oils from your fingers can collect on the trackball's surface, leading to discoloration and a rougher texture that can hinder mouse responsiveness.
- **Unusual noise or clicking**
A grinding, clicking, screeching, or sticking noise heard while operating the mouse points to dirt, debris, or dust lodged in its socket.
- **Stiff or difficult ball movement**
If the roller ball is difficult to move or feels stiff, sticky, or tacky to the touch, accurate, efficient mouse navigation becomes a challenge, and there is likely a build-up of debris or residue.
- **Cursor drift**
If your cursor is wandering or moving on its own, it is a clear indication that your trackball needs to be wiped down.



How Do You Clean a Trackball?

If you're experiencing issues with your trackball mouse such as stickiness, slowness, or scrolling problems, it's likely that it needs cleaning. Follow the steps below to clean and lubricate your trackball, restoring its optimal functionality.

- 1 Remove the ball from the socket using the eject button on the bottom of the trackball frame.
- 2 Clean the ball and trackball frame with a damp cloth or rubbing alcohol and allow them to dry.
- 3 Lightly lubricate the ball with a non-acidic lotion. We recommend using an oil-based lotion such as Vaseline for the best result. Evenly rub a pea-sized amount of lotion into the palms of your hands and roll the ball across the lotion on your hands until the ball is evenly lubricated.
- 4 Gently push the ball back into the socket. If the ball feels a little sticky, simply roll it around in the socket until it moves freely.

Clean Your Input Devices Weekly to Maintain a Healthier and Productive Workspace

Avoid using harsh chemicals that can damage the devices and instead use diluted alcohols or similarly gentle products. It is important to wipe down and sanitize the work surface during this weekly routine as well to maintain a clean work environment and promote a healthier workplace for all.

For detailed instructions on cleaning your trackball, please see the following blog post: <https://www.kensington.com/news/ergonomic-workspace-blog/best-way-to-clean-a-trackball/>

