

# SecureSchool Appliance Preventative Cleaning Guide

Keep your 1U appliance running cool and reliable

Regular cleaning helps maintain proper airflow, reduce excess heat, and may extend the life of your SecureSchool appliance. Dust buildup is one of the most common causes of fan failure and overheating.



K12USA.com includes a Hardware Replacement Program for the lifetime of your active subscription. This guide is provided as a recommended best practice to help your appliance perform at its best.

## When Should You Clean Your Appliance?

You may want to clean your 1U appliance if you notice:

- ✓ Loud fans or increased fan noise
- ✓ Appliance feels unusually hot
- ✓ Dust buildup visible in vents
- ✓ Unexpected shutdowns or reboots
- ✓ Fan warnings during startup
- ✓ Appliance located in dusty environments (shop classes, older buildings, floor-level installs, etc.)

## What You'll Need

-  Compressed Air (with straw/extension nozzle)
-  Soft Anti-Static Brush (ESD safe preferred)
-  Lint-Free Cloth
-  Flashlight (optional)

## Step-by-Step Cleaning Instructions

- 1 Shut Down Properly**  
Shut down the appliance through the operating system. Wait until all lights are off.
- 2 Disconnect Power**  
Unplug the power cable(s) and all network or peripheral cables.
- 3 Remove the Appliance**  
Slide the appliance out of the rack and place it on a clean, flat, well-lit work surface.
- 4 Remove the Top Cover**  
Remove the screws on the top cover (usually thumbscrews or Phillips screws) and slide the cover off.
- 5 Inspect for Dust**  
Check fans, heat sinks, vents, and internal components. If you see heavy dust buildup, it's time to clean.
- 6 Clean Fans**  
Hold the fan blades in place (do not let them spin freely) and use compressed air to blow dust out of the fans and from the surrounding area.
- 7 Clean Heat Sinks and Components**  
Use compressed air to blow dust from heat sinks, vents, and other components. Use a soft anti-static brush to gently loosen dust from tight areas.
- 8 Clean the Vents**  
Blow air through the front, rear, and side vents to remove dust. Use a brush to loosen dust around vent openings if needed.
- 9 Reassemble**  
Replace the top cover and secure the screws.
- 10 Reconnect and Power On**  
Reinstall the appliance in the rack, reconnect all cables, and power it on.



Fans



Heat Sinks



Rear Vents



### Helpful Tips

- Clean every 6–12 months depending on your environment.
- Keep the appliance in a cool, clean, and well-ventilated area.
- Use ESD safety practices when handling components.
- If you're not comfortable opening the appliance, contact K12USA.com Support — we're happy to help!



### What NOT To Do

- ✗ Do not use a household vacuum inside the appliance.
- ✗ Do not use liquid cleaners or sprays on internal components.
- ✗ Do not use a leaf blower or high-pressure air.
- ✗ Do not force fan blades to spin.
- ✗ Do not touch components unnecessarily.
- ✗ Do not power on the appliance while open.



Even with proper care, hardware can occasionally fail. If you experience any issues, our team is here to help.

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