

Cleaning Dirty Recording Heads with an Ordinary Cassette:

You have dirty video recording heads when you get a warning in the viewfinder of dirty heads or in playback you see horizontal banding, video snow, etc

If you are in production on campus or nearby you can get a cassette from the Engineering staff in Room 1__ , _am – _pm M-F.

Cleaning dirty recording heads with a Cleaning Cassette is EZ to try (tho' does not always work). Insert like a normal cassette (carefully) and play for 20 – 30 seconds. Check playback. And if still dirty try 3 or 4 more times. Do not rewind cleaning cassette until it reaches the end and then whole cassette can be used 1 or 2 more times. If head is still dirty sometimes going to a drier location and letting the camcorder air out helps. If not bring camcorder to Engineering for thorough cleaning.

If you are in the field and you do not have a Cleaning Cassette:

Insert an ordinary recording cassette,

- Best is a brand new cassette, hopefully a name brand, and hopefully one that you will not use for recording
- Second best is the cassette you are using, but which you are sure is not causing the dirty heads; e.g. a name brand with no tape damage. Play forward past the last recording and only use the next few minutes forward for the cleaning.
- Do not use an inferior brand or damaged cassette for this process.

Step 1: fast forward, stop and rewind for several seconds a few times, waiting for a few seconds between FF and REW. Play back recorded material to see if clean. If not, try Step 1 again and if still not clean:

Step 2: put into play and then press FF to SCAN forward, then let play for a few seconds and then reverse the scan by pressubg REW, then play then repeat a few times. Do a quick record and playback (make sure you start right AFTER the last recorded video). If not clean yet, try Step 2 again, and if still not clean:

Step 3: put into play and then PAUSE for a few seconds, then play, then pause a few seconds, and then a few more times. If still not clean, go back to method 2 one more time before giving up and bringing the gear back to the ER.

These procedures cause excessive wear on the heads so try to be gentle, but hopefully it will overcome your emergency production obstacle and you can record again.

IMPORTANT If you suspect the cassette you were using caused the dirty heads due to inferior quality or damage, DO NOT use the same cassette.