

DO NOT RE-USE LENS TISSUE, toss after first use.

IF THE DEBRIS IS NOT REMOVED AS YET: Add a drop or three of lens fluid to a wadded tissue and spread liquid on the tissue. Wipe in small random strokes (SEE ABOVE).

>Definitely avoid putting liquid directly on the lens and do not push a soaked tissue too close to the edge to avoid getting liquid inside the lens.

>Using liquid adds lots of time to the lens-cleaning task so only use if unavoidable.

Bunch another tissue and wipe to dry. In small random strokes. Best to dry quickly before the fluid leaves a gooky residue.

>Sometimes in a pinch you may resort to using an absolutely clean dry edge of your t-shirt. Not recommended but sometimes necessary.

**TURN ON CAMERA.** Point at bright light source like a fluorescent light bulb, or bright reflection. LOOK VERY CAREFULLY. Identify location of debris then find with your eyeballs on the lens surface. Use method above to clean.

If you are using a lens adaptor or filter you'll have to do the above for all surfaces.

And it pays to clean the viewfinder lens. The flip open LCD monitor and viewfinder LCD screen should only be cleaned very gently with a lens tissue or soft cloth – the surface SCRATCHES VERY EASILY.

Try to get all surfaces clean (all clean) with as little work as possible.

It is possible to get away with debris or schmutz near the edge. And sometimes you can zoom in past a dirty lens edge.

## **Keep your Lens Clean!**

If you want to avoid doing this all again, do what Ira says: keep your lens clean. In threatening situations, protect the lens with a cupped hand from airborne dust, smoke, sawdust, tumble weed and 2-year-olds. Use your lens cap when not recording or standing by. Stow the camera in a bag; including, a zip lock plastic bag in potentially dirty or wet conditions.

**CLEANING THE LENS** must be exacting and can be tedious. Be careful and patient. Every gesture should be done consciously and with purpose. The lens is fragile whether cheap plastic camcorder or high-quality glass. In all cleaning tasks, it is possible to do damage if not attentive. Avoid touching with skin! Especially in production with kids, where you don't want an oily schmeer, be aware of each and every finger or nose when they are close to your lens.

It is a workman's craft to have a clean lens and an absolute requirement for professional production. Hopefully you can avoid experiencing the excruciating pain of a big fleck in the center of the frame of a crucial clip during a production with 'record' blinking or, worse, in the editing room, and worst during a screening. Maintain clean lens vigilance at all times.

To save the time it takes, plus the wear-and-tear on the surface, you try to clean the lens as seldom as possible. My friend Ira sez: "Don't clean the lens, keep it clean." But be sure to check thoroughly and clean when it's needed.

You have to allow a half-hour to clean all the lens and viewfinder elements well, altho, especially if you avoid using cleaning fluid, it can take just a few minutes.

**LENS/CAMERA CLEANING KIT:** All in a clear small zip lock bag.

- Expensive artist's watercolor BRUSH (cut handle to 3 inches) (art supply store) or Lens blower brush (photo store).
- Lens TISSUE (photo store or drug store).
- Lens cleaning FLUID (NOT eyeglass cleaning fluid – use Zeiss or other name brand)
- Soft cotton CLOTH – to clean camera body, in zip lock bag.

### **CLEANING THE LENS PROCEDURE**

LOOK FIRST. Look at the lens surface. Really carefully. Reflect w/ lights, white surfaces and dark reflections. Check for teeny hairs, cleaning-brush or lens tissue fibers, small white or dark particles, and greasy smears. Sidelight sometimes shows best. If it appears to be clean go to TURN ON CAMERA below. If you can see schmutz right on the glass...

In my opinion it's better not to blow on the lens but some experts do recommend blowing and sometimes you can't help yourself. It does work to blow off little flecks of stuff like lens tissue filament. If you're going to blow:

- Photo bulb blowers-- are not that effective but many people use one.
- with a can: caution-- air spray cans sometimes spit out nasty gunk. Do a test spray into the air to rid of any gunk first, then use short bursts, as few as necessary.
- with your mouth: make sure all saliva is swallowed and your mouth is dry. First give a practice blow away from lens. Then as short and few blows as necessary.

But in general: use brush first to rid any grit, sweeping with small random strokes and generally across to one edge. NOT REPEATED LARGE CIRCULAR ROUND & ROUND MOTION.

Next, lens tissue bunched (wadded) up to get off dirt, hairs, flecks, and hairs from the brush, sweep dry w/ same small random strokes. NOT REPEATED LARGE CIRCULAR MOTION.