

6

BEST PRACTICES

for Surgical Instrument Care & Handling



1 Immediate Post-Op Care

1. Instruments should be rinsed or sprayed with a post-operative pre-cleaning solution within a few minutes after surgery.
2. If you are unable to fully clean immediately, rinse bioburden off the instruments or cover with a damp towel to prevent bioburden from drying.



2 Manual Washing

1. Fill the sink with warm water.
2. Use only an instrument approved, neutral pH detergent. Be sure to follow proper dilution/mixing instructions.
3. Use a nylon or stainless-steel bristled brush to clean the instruments, paying close attention to box locks and serrations.
4. Rinse thoroughly.



15x
MORE EFFECTIVE
THAN MANUAL
CLEANING!

3 Ultrasonic Cleaning

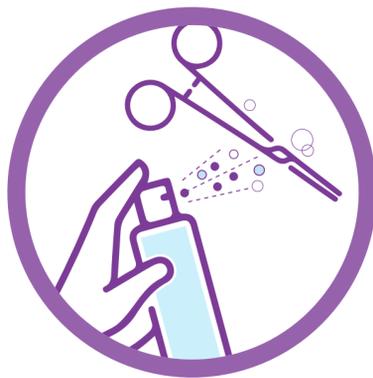
1. Follow proper dilution instructions, and use only instrument approved (low suds), neutral pH detergents.
2. Rinse thoroughly.

(NOTE: Rinsing is a critical step. All soaps/detergents must be removed prior to autoclaving.)



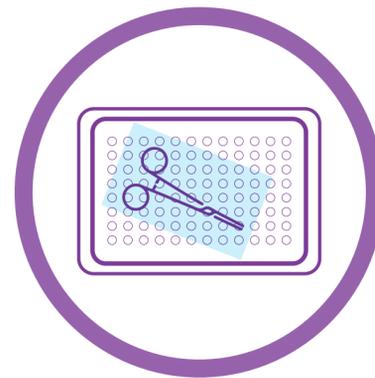
4 Drying

1. Lay the rinsed instruments on a towel, making sure that all instruments are in an open position.
2. Pat dry any excess water from the instruments with another towel.



5 Lubrication

1. Once dry, apply a spray on, instrument approved neutral pH lubricant.
2. Instruments should be lubricated each time they are used, cleaned, and sterilized.
3. **SPRAY-DON'T SOAK!** Instrument milk baths are known to harbor bacteria.
4. **NEVER USE PETROLEUM BASED LUBRICANTS** as steam will not penetrate and instruments will not achieve sterility.



6 Sterilization

1. Ensure that all instruments are open and un-ratcheted.
2. Be sure to use a perforated pan, as it will allow for better steam flow.
3. Place heavier instruments on the bottom, wrap, and sterilize following individual autoclave instructions.
4. Sort in an upright position. **NEVER STACK PAPER PEEL POUCHES ON TOP OF EACH OTHER.**



Things To Avoid

- Dried on blood and tissue post-op.
- Allowing water droplets to dry on instruments.
- Prolonged soaking of instruments in water or detergent solutions.
- Harmful detergents and cleaners, such as bleach, chlorhexidine scrubs, saline, surgeon's hand scrub, dish detergents, abrasive scrubs, and any other potentially harmful household cleaners.

