

Surgical Instruments Cleaning & Sterilization

CARE, CLEANING AND HANDLING OF SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS

Recommended Cleaning Instructions for Our Surgical Instruments. Proper care and handling is essential for satisfactory performance of surgical instruments.

The following steps should be taken to ensure long and trouble-free service.

DECONTAMINATION

- ✓ Inspect instruments before each use for broken, cracked, chipped or worn parts.
- ✓ Begin Decontamination within 20 minutes following a procedure.
- ✓ Pre-clean , spray or soak instruments with a pH neutral enzymatic solution. This will help dissolve any blood, mucous, tissue from the instruments and make the cleaning process easier and more effective. Let the instruments soak from 10-20 minutes.
- ✓ Never allow blood to dry on the instruments.
- ✓ Rinse the instruments with distilled, filtered water. Never use tap water as it contains minerals that could leave a residue (stain) on the instrument surface
- ✓ The instruments are now ready for cleaning.



Omega Surgical Instrument
Suppliers Ltd T/A Medema
329-339 Putney Bridge Road,
London SW15 2PG, UK



+44 (0)20 8780 9400



customerservices
@omegahealthcare.co.uk

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Manual Cleaning

Note: Following decontamination (pre-soak), if not using an automated cleaner. If you process coated or insulated instruments, then manual cleaning is recommended.

- ✓ Rinse and clean instruments using either a mild alkaline detergent or an enzymatic cleaning agent which facilitates a deeper cleaning of the most complex instruments.
- ✓ Instruments with several components must be disassembled into their constituent parts for effective cleaning Do not use corrosive or harsh cleaning agents such as bleach scrub the submerged instruments thoroughly with a very soft sponge.
- ✓ Use only soft plastic cleaning brushes, wire brushes could scratch the finish on the instruments
- ✓ For lumens and crevices use a pipe cleaner or flush with a syringe.
- ✓ Actuate any moving parts to loosen trapped soil.
- ✓ Rinse the instruments with distilled water thoroughly.
- ✓ Dry the instrument thoroughly with a clean, lint free cloth.



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Surgical Instruments Cleaning & Sterilization

Automated Cleaning

Our Instruments are suitable to be processed through automated washer-disinfector machines and ultrasonic cleaners Cleaning.

Automated washer-disinfector machines

Our Instruments are suitable to be processed through automated washer-disinfector machines which are CE marked and validated to ISO 15883-2:2006

Cleaning parameters: Washer Disinfector (Thermal) 90°C (-0°C +5°C) for minimum of 1 minute

- ✓ The first stage of a washer disinfectors cycle is to clean the instruments within. Using cold water, the machine will perform a pre-rinse, removing any thick soiling.
- ✓ Next, a detergent cycle will work to remove any remaining agents to ensure instruments are thoroughly cleaned. Next, comes the disinfection. This is performed at a high heat, around 90°C, over a period of time that can be set by the user.



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Ultrasonic Cleaning

Note: Blood and tissue should be removed from instruments at a temperature below 40°C (104°F). That is because elevating the temperature can cause protein in blood to harden and become more difficult to clean.

- ✓ Use a pH neutral enzymatic cleaning solution.
- ✓ Instruments must be fully submerged with hinged instruments in an open position. Do not overload.
- ✓ Ensure that sharp-delicate instruments such as scissor blades do not touch other instruments in order not to damage blades and scratch surfaces.
- ✓ Separate dissimilar metals such as stainless steel from silver plated. Combining dissimilar metals could cause electrolysis which can result in pitting in the steel.

Note: Automated cleaning may not be suitable for all lumens and cannula in which case clean manually with a water jet gun, if available, and an appropriate brush that reaches the depth of the feature. After manually cleaning, pass all devices through an automatic cleaning cycle to achieve disinfection.

Note: Our surgical instruments have been validated using a washer-disinfector cycle validated to include two cold rinses at 50°C, a disinfection cycle operating at a temperature of between 80 °C and 90 °C for a minimum holding time of 1 minute. (actual holding time in excess of 2 minutes 50 seconds) and a 20-minute drying cycle.



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Rinsing

- ✓ After automated or manual cleaning, always rinse instruments thoroughly with distilled-filtered water.
- ✓ Try to avoid rinsing with tap water because the high mineral content could lead to staining.
- ✓ Proper rinsing will ensure removal of any residue/cleaning solution left on the instruments.
- ✓ Never allow instruments to air dry, always hand dry with a towel.

Lubrication

- ✓ Following rinsing, dry the instruments by hand with a towel.
- ✓ All hinged instruments require lubrication.
- ✓ Use a water soluble, steam permeable lubricant.
- ✓ Lubricant can be applied to the instruments by Spray or if processing many instruments at a time, the instruments can be submerged in a lubricant “milk” bath.
- ✓ It is Important that the lubricant not be rinsed off the instrument before sterilization.
- ✓ Then proceed to prepare instruments for sterilization.



Surgical Instruments Cleaning & Sterilization

Sterilization

- ✓ Following lubrication, the instruments are prepared for sterilization. While there are several sterilization methods, it is recommended that surgical instruments are sterilized using a steam autoclave.
- ✓ Instruments are placed in a perforated sterilization tray, then wrapped and labelled or placed in a closed sterilization container. Instruments can also be placed in a peel pouch.
- ✓ Ensure that hinged instruments are in an open position inside the pouch and the pouch is wide enough, labelled, ensure dissimilar metals are separated.
- ✓ Sterilize in a steam autoclave conforming to BS EN 285:2015 at a holding temperature of 134°C to 137°C for between 3 to 3.5 minutes.

Note: Validated to the following standard EN 17665-1:2006 Follow the Autoclave manufacturers' instructions to sterilize. It is important that the autoclave be cleaned on a regular basis and that all cycles, especially the drying cycle is properly working.

Note: It is important to know that most cold sterilization solutions are damaging to surgical instruments, especially on tungsten carbide needle holder jaws and scissor blades Our surgical instruments are compatible and will not affect the sterility of the instruments being processed on the UK standard parameters as below.

- Washer - 90-degree Temp - 1 minute exposure time
- Steriliser - 134 - 137-degree temp , 3 - 3.5 minutes exposure time



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