



Instrument Reprocessing Process

Correct processing of reusable medical devices is a crucial measure in infection control management. The priority is protection of the patients, the staff and the material being processed. Additional factors are economical processing costs and environmental concerns during processing.

Principal Steps

- Cleaning of instrumentation to allow for sterilization
- Decontamination to protect the staff
- Sterilization

Thorough cleaning is imperative for effective decontamination and sterilization. All soils, protein and biofilms must be removed in order to ultimately achieve sterilization. Thus, enzymatic cleaners and detergents must be used in order to achieve clean instrumentation. You cannot achieve sterilization on dirty instruments.

7 Steps Recommended

Most hospitals will accomplish the complete process.

Physician's offices or small volume processing areas usually will use steps 1, 2, 5 & 6.

STEP 1

Pre-preparation (Presoak)

Surgical
Instruments

Delicate Instruments
& Scopes

Reason

Instruments should have gross soil removed as soon as possible after use. Allowing blood and tissue to dry can cause the instrument to rust and pit. Enzymatic presoaking increases the life of the surgical instruments, reduces the risk of cross contamination and provides the most complete cleaning.

YES

YES

Solution Choice

Cuts-It® Gel Instrument Pre-soak: M60005
 ENZYCLEAN® Protease Enzyme Low Suds Detergent: EBL1
 ENZYCLEAN® II Dual Enzyme Detergent: B9
 ENZYCLEAN® II LS Dual Enzyme Low Suds Detergent: Z6
 ENZYCLEAN® IV Multiple Enzyme Detergent: 128EME

STEP 2

Manual Cleaning

Surgical
Instruments

Delicate Instruments
& Scopes

Reason

When an ultrasonic cleaner or automatic washer is not available or the instruments are very delicate, manual cleaning should be performed. An effective cleaner which is free rinsing should be used.

YES

YES

Solution Choice

MicroKleen™ LS Low Suds Neutral Detergent: B1/B6
 MicroKleen™ HS High Suds Neutral Detergent: B2
 MicroKleen™ HS Powder High Suds Neutral Detergent: B3
 ENZYCLEAN® Protease Enzyme Low Suds Detergent: EBL1
 ENZYCLEAN® II Dual Enzyme Detergent: B9
 ENZYCLEAN® II LS Dual Enzyme Low Suds Detergent: Z6
 ENZYCLEAN® IV Multiple Enzyme Detergent: 128EME

STEP 6	Sterilization (Steam, ETO, Gas Plasma or Chemical)	Surgical Instruments	Delicate Instruments & Scopes
Reason	After lubrication, instruments should be sterilized for the next patient procedure. Steam is the most preferred method but when the instruments are heat or moisture sensitive they should be sterilized with ethylene oxide gas or gas plasma. When neither is available, a high quality cold chemical sterilant should be used.	STEAM	ETO, GAS PLASMA OR CHEMICAL
Solution Choice	Micro-Cide™ 28 HLD: MC28-04-128		
STEP 7	Stain Removal (Use only if necessary)	Surgical Instruments	Delicate Instruments & Scopes
Reason	Often instruments have been improperly cared for and therefore develop rust and stains. By using a stain remover, the instruments can be restored. After using a stain remover, steps 2 through 6 should be repeated.	YES	NO
Solution Choice	Cool Soak™ Stain & Rust Remover: T5 Stain-Away™ Instrument Wipes: IW20		