



Preparing Your Devices for Sterilization in the STERRAD® NX® System

As a leader in infection prevention, ASP is committed to helping make your transition from the STERIS System 1® to the STERRAD® NX® System as smooth as possible. Proper preparation of your instruments prior to the sterilization process is critical and necessary to limit potential cycle cancellations and to provide the best patient care possible.

All devices must be cleaned, rinsed and dried prior to loading them in the STERRAD® NX® System. Instruments with removable parts should be disassembled per the manufacturer's instructions. Thoroughly clean all devices and parts, and remove any oil-based lubricants. Oil- or grease-based lubricants may interfere with sterilization. After rinsing and completely drying devices, apply a water-based lubricant to necessary parts.

The chart on the back includes excerpts from the AORN Perioperative Standards and Recommended Practices, 2010 Edition, Cleaning and Care of Surgical Instruments and Powered Equipment. Ensure that your processes adhere to the manufacturers' Instructions For Use (IFU), or contact the device manufacturer for additional instructions.

ADVANCED STERILIZATION PRODUCTS

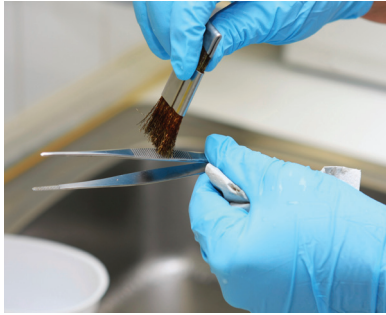
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CLEANING



RINSING



DRYING

RECOMMENDED PRACTICES

Cleaning and decontamination should occur as soon as possible after instruments are used to prevent the formation of biofilm. Automated cleaning and decontamination of equipment is recommended because it provides a high level of cleaning that is difficult to consistently replicate using manual methods. Manual cleaning should be accomplished by submerging the instrument in warm water followed by a complete submersion in rinse solution to minimize the aerosolization of contaminants. Mechanical cleaning of surgical instruments should be accomplished by ultrasonic cleaners, washer decontaminators/disinfectors or washer/sterilizers.

Before beginning the cleaning process, instruments received into the decontamination area should be rinsed with cold running water to remove debris and help prevent coagulation of the blood present on the instrument. In manual cleaning, instruments should be completely submerged in rinse solution to minimize aerosolization of contaminants. Mechanical cleaning provides consistent washing and rinsing parameters during the process. The instrument manufacturers' instructions should be used to determine the amount of time necessary to efficiently rinse the instruments. Softened or deionized (DI) water should be used for the final rinse to remove soil and detergent residues more efficiently.

Instruments should be thoroughly dried. Elimination of moisture helps prevent rust formation during instrument storage. The presence of moisture can impede the sterilization process. Excess moisture inhibits the hydrogen peroxide plasma sterilization process and can result in an aborted cycle. Compressed air is needed to clear lumens after cleaning.

RATIONALE

Enzymatic cleaner is used for manual and automated cleaning. Soft-bristle brushes, designed for surgical instrument cleaning, can effectively clean instruments without damaging surfaces. Cleaning cloths are used for external surfaces.

Water softeners remove the calcium and magnesium ions that cause spots on instruments. DI water removes ionized salts and particles that could harm instruments. A water quality assessment should be performed periodically and after major maintenance to the water source.

There are several different products that can be used for drying, including medical grade air through your facility's central lines or through tanks provided by a local supplier. Clean, lint-free towels can also be used to dry certain devices that do not have lumens.

Please refer to your medical device manufacturer's IFU for information on drying your device.

This chart includes excerpts from the AORN Perioperative Standards and Recommended Practices, 2010 Edition (pp. 421 - 446) which can be purchased at <http://www.aorn.org/AORNStore>.

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