

Tips for Processing Re-usable Instruments



SOILED/USED INSTRUMENTS

STEP 1 PRE-WASH SOAK

1

PURPOSE:
to stop contamination from drying onto instrument surface.

- Water temp.: COLD
- Ph: Mild alkaline
- Product: ProDet, Clini-Soak
adhere to instructions on label

**Max. soak time:
30 minutes**

prolonged submersion can encourage surface corrosion

STEP 2 PRE-WASH RINSE

2

PURPOSE:
to flush off heavy soiling prior to washing.

- Water temp.: COLD
- Flowing tap water

STEP 3 WARM WASH

3

PURPOSE:
to remove all surface contamination prior to sterilisation.

- Ultrasonic Cycle Time: 5-12 minutes
- Capacity: 1 x GT set / litre
6 litre unit = 6 x GT sets
- Water temp.: MAX 35°C
excessive water temperature will make proteins insoluble
- Ph: Mild alkaline
- Product: ProDet, Clini-Soak
adhere to instructions on label

STEP 4 RINSE! RINSE! RINSE!

4

PURPOSE:
to remove ALL detergent remnants prior to sterilisation

Detergent remnants are the main cause of surface spotting/staining and sticky hinges

- Water temp.: Warm-Hot
- Flowing tap water

STEP 5 IMMEDIATE DRY

5

PURPOSE:
to dry and remove all remnants of detergent and water minerals.

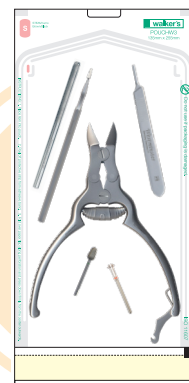
- Dry all instruments immediately after washing
- Product: Aquasorb Lint-free Towel
- Wipe/pat dry
- Avoid passive air drying

STEP 6 LUBRICATION

6

PURPOSE:
to keep hinges free and smooth.

- Frequency: weekly routine
- Product: Premixslip



POUCHING FOR STERILISATION

Tips for Processing Re-usable Instruments

STICKY Clipper Hinges !?!

CAUSE:

- The build-up of foreign matter within the hinges.
- In the majority of cases this is remnants of cleaning detergent.
 - With NEW clippers, this may also be remnants of the oils used in the manufacturing process.

FIX:

Ultra-Sonic method:

- If possible, remove the barrel springs from any double-action clipper.
- Place the trouble-some clippers (and springs) into a HOT (>45°C) ultra-sonic bath for an extended cycle (20 mins).
- Do NOT use detergent - just clean, HOT water.
- Dry them immediately and lubricate all hinges using PREMIXSLIP.
- Open and close the clipper repeatedly to work the lubricant into the hinges.

Manual method:

- Same as above, however open and close the clipper whilst submerged in fresh HOT water.
- Ensure you wear the appropriate PPE.
- Dry them immediately and lubricate as above.

PREVENTION:

RINSE ! RINSE ! RINSE !

Rinse thoroughly - with warm to hot flowing water immediately after washing your instruments.
(it is important to remove all remnants of the detergent)

Ensure that you follow the correct dilution rates when using medical-grade detergents.
(more detergent does not result in better cleaning and makes it harder to rinse/flush post cleaning)

New clippers - consider following the above procedure upon their commissioning.
Lubricate the hinges on a regular basis or as required.

SPOTTED/STAINED Instruments !?!

CAUSE:

Most likely to be remnants of cleaning detergents on the instrument surface which is then "baked" on during sterilisation.
Another cause may be remnants of the minerals and salts that are found in tap water.
(the levels of which vary substantially across regions within Australia)

FIX:

Acid-bath. Product: SURGISTAIN. Following the instructions for use and wear the appropriate PPE.

PREVENTION:

RINSE ! RINSE ! RINSE !

Rinse thoroughly - with warm to hot flowing water immediately after washing your instruments.
(it is important to remove all remnants of the detergent)

Ensure that you follow the correct dilution rates when using medical-grade detergents.
(more detergent does not result in better cleaning and makes it harder to rinse/flush post cleaning)

Dry the instruments immediately after washing. Avoid allowing the instrument to passively air-dry. Wipe/pat them dry with lint-free towel (AQUASORB). (this will help to remove the minerals and salts and avoid them drying onto the surface)