

Instrument care & cleaning

Proper care and maintenance will greatly prolong the life of your instruments.

Newly purchased instruments must be cleaned, lubricated and autoclaved before use.

Proper use

Instruments are designed for a particular purpose and should be used only for that purpose. Even the strongest instrument can be damaged when used inappropriately, such as when scissors are used to cut wire.

Water and Stainless Steel

Regular tap water contains minerals that can cause discoloration and staining. We recommend using distilled water for cleaning, disinfecting, sterilizing and rinsing. To avoid staining, use a cleaning solution with a pH near neutral (7). Instruments should be placed in distilled water immediately after use. They should never be placed in saline solution, as it may cause corrosion and eventually irreversible damage to the instrument.

Manual Cleaning

When handling instruments, be careful not to damage fine tips and mechanisms. If instruments have been exposed to blood, tissue, saline or other foreign matter, they must be rinsed in warm water before these substances are allowed to dry. Failure to do so may cause rusting. After rinsing, immerse them in a cleaning and disinfecting solution.

Because many compounds, including certain chemicals, are highly corrosive to stainless steel, rinse and dry instruments immediately if they come into contact with any potentially harmful substances.

If no ultrasonic cleaner is available, clean the instrument very carefully. Pay particular attention when cleaning box locks, serrations, hinges and other hard-to-reach areas. Use nylon (not steel) brushes and warm (not hot) cleaning solutions. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for the preparation of the cleaning solutions. Change these solutions daily.

Ultrasonic Cleaning

Ultrasonic cleaning is the most effective and efficient way to clean instruments. To maximize its effectiveness, instruments should be cleaned of all visible debris before they are placed in an ultrasonic cleaner.

When using ultrasonic cleaners:

- Do not mix dissimilar metals, e.g., chrome and stainless, in the same cycle.
- Use only designated cleaners. Open all instruments so ratchets and box locks are accessible.
- Whenever possible, disassemble instruments for optimal cleaning.
- Avoid piling instruments on top of each other.
- Remove and rinse off instruments immediately after the cycle is finished.
- Allow instruments to air-dry.
- Lubricate all moving parts after cleaning and before sterilization.
- Use only lubricants specifically designed for surgical instruments.
- Change the ultrasonic cleaning solution daily.

Instrument Checkup

The best time to review the condition of instruments is after they have been cleaned, lubricated and before sterilization. Check for:

Function

"Sharps" must cut cleanly (resharpen if needed) and close properly. Check for burrs along the cutting edges. Needle holders and clamps must engage properly and meet correctly at the tips.

Surface

Inspect surfaces for any sign of staining, cracking or other irregularities. Common sources of staining are:

- Inadequate cleaning.
- Mixing dissimilar metals.
- Impurities in the water.
- Unsuitable or improper preparation and usage of cleaning and disinfecting agents.
- Noncompliance with operating procedures of cleaning and sterilizing equipment.

Lubrication and Autoclaving

All instruments must be properly cleaned before autoclaving. Moving parts, such as box locks and hinges, should be well lubricated. Be sure to use surgical lubricants and not industrial oils.

Always sterilize instruments in the open, unlocked position.

We recommend that instruments be wrapped in cloth and then placed in the container, or that a cloth be put on the bottom of the pan to absorb moisture.

The cloth should be Ph (7) neutral and free of detergent residues.

Finally, avoid sudden cooling. Instruments should be allowed to air-dry.

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Cold Sterilizing or Disinfecting

Prolonged immersion in disinfecting or sterilizing solution can damage surgical instruments. Do not soak instruments for longer than 20 minutes. To render the instruments sterile and ready for use, we recommend using an autoclave.

Avoid BAC

Instruments with tungsten carbide inserts, such as wire cutters, needle holders and TC scissors, should never be immersed in sterilizing solutions containing benzyl ammonium chloride (BAC). BAC will soften and dissolve the tungsten carbide. Never use bleach as it will cause severe pitting.

Storage

Once instruments are thoroughly dry, store them in a clean, dry environment. Never put them in areas where chemicals may emit corrosive vapors or where temperature and moisture variations could cause condensation on the instruments.

Instrument Care Checklist

1. Rinse and soak soiled instruments immediately after use. Thoroughly clean before autoclaving.
2. Clean, autoclave and sterilize instruments in an open position.
3. Do not stack or entangle instruments.
4. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations when using equipment and cleaning solutions.
5. Keep instruments properly lubricated.
6. Inspect instruments regularly.

Guarantee

All standard instruments are guaranteed for life against manufacturing defects of material and workmanship. Any instrument proving to be defective will be replaced or the purchase price refunded.

1. Tungsten carbide inserts are guaranteed for three years. Replaceable parts, other than springs, are guaranteed for one year. Replaceable springs are guaranteed for life against manufacturing defects of material and workmanship.
2. This guarantee is void if instruments are altered or not maintained or repaired properly or if they are not used for their intended surgical purpose.
3. Any unused instrument may be returned for full credit within 90 days of invoice date.

Returns

Be sure to package instruments securely to protect against damage during transit.

We will accept standard instrument returns covered by the AMGMedical guarantee, however we cannot accept the following for credit or refund:

1. Instruments not in their original condition.
2. Instruments which have been used in surgery, unless defective. Used instruments must be sterilized prior to return and be accompanied by a Certificate of Sterilization.
3. Instruments with an invoice date of more than 90 days.
4. Custom-made, custom-marked, special order or altered instruments.
5. K-Wires, Steinmann Pins, Cerclage Wire.

If you need to return instruments, you must contact AMGMedical Customer Service for a return authorization number (RA#). An RA# is required before shipping your return to us. Customer Service will need the following information to issue the RA#:

1. Part number and quantity being returned.
2. Reason for return.
3. AMGMedical invoice or packing slip number.



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