

Cleaning, Sterilization and Maintenance of Stainless Steel Forceps



RINSE FORCEPS IMMEDIATELY AFTER USE TO PREVENT RESIDUES FROM DRYING

Rinsing

Immediately after use, rinse forceps under warm (not hot) running water. Rinsing should remove all blood, body fluids and tissue.

Cleaning Methods

If not done immediately after rinsing, forceps should be submerged in a solution of water and neutral PH(7) detergent. Stainless steel forceps may be cleaned using any of these methods:

- Rinsing + (A) Ultrasonic Cleaning
- Rinsing + (B) Automatic Washer Sterilizers
- Rinsing + (C) Manual Cleaning
- Rinsing + (D) Autoclave

CAUTIONS

- DISCARD any instrument that shows evidence of damage or deterioration
- USE ONLY NEUTRAL PH(7) DETERGENTS; low or high PH detergents may hamper proper functioning of the instrument.
- USE ONLY surgical grade lubricants; DO NOT USE industrial lubricants on the instrument.

(A) Ultrasonic Cleaning

- Forceps should be processed in a cleaner for the full recommended cycle time—usually 5 to 10 minutes.
- Place forceps in open position into the ultrasonic cleaner. Make sure tips do not touch other instruments.
- Forceps have to be fully submerged.
- Do not place dissimilar metals (copper, chrome plated, etc.) in the same cleaning cycle.
- Rinse forceps after ultrasonic cleaning with water to remove ultrasonic cleaning solution.

(B) Automatic Washer Sterilizers

- Follow manufacturers recommendations ensuring forceps are lubricated after last rinse cycle and before sterilization cycle.

(C) Manual Cleaning

Most instrument manufacturers recommend ultrasonic cleaning as the best and most effective way to clean surgical instruments, particularly

Continued on other side.

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those with hinges, locks and other moving parts. If ultrasonic cleaning is not available, manually clean using the following steps:

1. Use stiff plastic cleaning brushes (nylon, etc.); do not use steel wool or wire brushes.
2. Use only neutral PH(7) detergents. Low PH detergents will cause breakdown of stainless protective surface and black staining. High PH detergent will cause surface deposits and brown staining, which will also interfere with smooth operation of the instrument.
3. Brush forceps carefully.
4. Make sure all forceps surfaces are visibly clean and free from stains, tissue and residue.
5. Inspect the forceps for proper function and condition. Make sure that forceps glide smoothly when opening and closing (they must not be loose when in the closed position) and have properly aligned tips.
6. After scrubbing, rinse forceps thoroughly under running water. While rinsing, open and close forceps to make sure the hinge areas are rinsed out, as well as the outside of the instruments.
7. If forceps are to be stored, let them air dry and store them in a clean and dry environment.

(D) Autoclaving

1. Lubricate forceps hinge and areas of metal-to-metal contact. Surgical instrument lubricants are recommended. Do not use WD-40 or other industrial lubricants.
2. Autoclave forceps either individually or in sets. Sterilize in open (unlocked) position. Never close forceps during autoclaving since steam cannot reach the metal-to-metal contact surfaces.
 - Temperature: 270 - 275°F (132-135°C)
 - Chamber pressure: 27-30 psi
 - Exposure phase: 4 minutes, minimum, at stated temperature
 - Drying time: 20 minutes
3. Do not overload the autoclave chamber as pockets may form that do not permit steam penetration. Place towel on bottom of pan to absorb excess moisture during autoclaving. Make sure the towels used in sterilization have no detergent residue and are neutral-PH(7)- if immersed in water. This can be problematic since laundries frequently use high PH(9-13) detergents and do not properly rinse or neutralize the detergents in the final wash/rinse cycle.

NOTE: At the end of the autoclave cycle, before the drying cycle, unlock the autoclave door and open it no more than a crack (approximately 3/4"). Run dry cycle for the period recommended by the autoclave manufacturer. If the autoclave door is fully opened before the drying cycle, cold ambient air will rush into the chamber, causing condensation on the instruments. This will result in water stains on the instruments.



Manufactured for SunMed
2710 Northridge Dr. NW, Suite A
Grand Rapids, MI 49544 USA
www.Sun-Med.com

Made in Pakistan
SunMed is a registered trademark in the USA
Forceps.INIFU Rev.1

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