

Cleaning and Disinfection Practices

Purpose:

1. Prevent the spread of infection via consumer equipment or environmental surface;
2. Remove visible soil;
3. Remove invisible soil (micro organisms and films);
4. Prepare all surfaces so that sterilants or disinfectants have direct contact with all surfaces;
5. Protect personnel and consumers.

A. Categories of Instruments

Medical devices and equipment are divided into two general categories based on the potential risk of infection involved in their use: non-critical items and semi-critical items.

1. Non-critical items

These items rarely, if ever, transmit disease and can be cleaned with a detergent or detergent - disinfectant solution. Such items are:

- a. Blood pressure cuffs;
- b. Carpets;
- c. Multiple use canisters;
- d. Percussion hammers;
- e. Work surfaces;
- f. Bandage scissors;
- g. Urinals or commodes.

2. Semi-critical items

These items may come in contact with mucous membranes or blood. They must be cleaned, then disinfected. Examples of semi-critical items are:

- a. Thermometers
- b. Ear specula -
- c. Plastic blood-draw needle holder

B. General Practices

1. Cleaning and disinfection equipment

a. For cleaning

1. Personal protective equipment: gloves, eye protection, mask, waterproof apron/gown (as needed).
2. Detergent and water.
3. Basin.
4. Soft bristle scrub brush or toothbrush.

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- b.
 1. Personal protective equipment: gloves, eye protection, mask, waterproof apron/gown (as needed).
 2. Soaking container with lid.
 3. Tap water.
 4. Chemical disinfectant.
2. Cleaning and Disinfection Solutions.
 - a. For cleaning, use an environmental detergent/disinfectant.
 - b. For disinfecting, use a solution of 5.25% sodium hypochlorite at 1:10 dilution for semi-critical items. Use a 1:100 dilution for non-critical items.
3. Cleaning/Decontamination Practices.

Scrub items contaminated with gross organic material.

 - a. Put on any necessary personal protective equipment, e.g. utility gloves and apron.
 - b. Wash article thoroughly in detergent and warm water. Use friction to clean off organic material.
 - c. Use scrub brush or toothbrush.
 1. Scrub below level of water.
 2. If a reusable brush is used, disinfect weekly and as needed.
 - d. Rinse item thoroughly in tap water.
 1. Place articles that require disinfection in chemical disinfectant solution.
 2. Air dry articles that don't require disinfecting.
 - e. Change detergent solution daily or sooner if visibly contaminated.
 - f. Wash detergent solution container daily. Air dry.
 - g. Remove personal protective equipment before going on to next step.

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4. Disinfection Practices

- a. Completely submerge article in chemical disinfectant solution for 10 minutes.
- b. Put lid on soaking container.
- c. Wear gloves when removing articles from disinfectant solution.
- d. Rinse copiously in tap water after soaking.
- e. Air dry.
- f. Monitor and change disinfectant solutions as follows:
 1. 5.25% sodium hypochlorite 1:100 solution should be discarded after use.
 2. 5.25% sodium hypochlorite 1:10 solution is good for 30 days in closed containers. Label container with date mixed, date of expiration, and chemical hazard label. Discard daily or sooner if grossly contaminated.