

How To Clean Those Dirty Little Things: Part I

All Things Yucky

Dana M. Stephens, MT, CIC
Director of Infection Prevention and Control
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Definitions

- Sterilization: complete elimination or destruction of all forms of microbial life (definitely dead)
- Disinfection: elimination or destruction of almost everything (spores intact to grow when conditions favorable)
- Cleaning: mechanical removal for materials (lower numbers of microbes)

Levels Of Clean

Category	Device	Clean Level
Critical: enters sterile tissue or vascular system	Implants, biopsy needles, surgical or procedural instruments, etc.	Sterilization
Semicritical: touches mucous membranes	Flexible scopes, endotracheal tubes, laryngoscopes, etc. <u>All therapeutic tubs or tanks</u>	High-level disinfection <u>Intermediate-level disinfection</u>
Noncritical: touches intact skin	Stethoscopes, wheel chairs, bed rails, blood pressure cuff, etc.	Low-level disinfection

Clean Categories

- Reprocessed single use: critical require sterilization
 - Policy to address
 - Do not use
 - Send to third party vendor
 - Protocol for in-house
- Sterilization
 - Policy to address
 - Methods, types of equipment and QC for each methods
 - Storage of items
- High-level and Low-level disinfection
 - Policy to address
 - EPA registered hospital grade disinfectant
 - Product label use, contact time, kill spectrum (single organism per family)
 - Effective contact time and equipment
 - Storage of items

Cleaning frequency

- Use single use items one time
- 5 second law does not apply in healthcare
- Clean patient care items after each use
- Clean visible blood or body fluids immediately

All Things Clean

- Storage
 - Store sterile and clean items appropriately: clean with clean
 - Inspect packaging for breaches
 - Inspect packing for lot/date
- Transport of clean and contaminated items
- Follow manufacturer recommendations for maintaining and cleaning equipment and instruments
- References:
 - CDC HICPAC: Guidelines for Environmental Infection Control in health-Care Facilities
 - 902 KAR 20:016 Hospitals; Operation and Services
 - CDC: Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities, 2008