

B. Graczyk, Inc. **Universal™ / Surgical Eye Care Products**

Environmental Services / Infection Control: Good House Keeping After Instrument Cleaning

As a guide, the basic principles of aseptic techniques dictate the procedures to be carried out immediately after an operation is completed to prepare the OR and the instrument cleaning station for the next patient. Pathogenic microorganisms and those that do not “normally” invade healthy tissue are capable of causing infection if introduced mechanically into the body. Therefore, specific standardized practices are necessary for the cleaning and disinfecting of all supplies and equipment used in the operating room and instrument cleaning area. Meticulous cleaning and the proper use of disinfectants are used to kill as many microorganisms in the environment as possible on items and materials that cannot be sterilized. This is done by:

1. Destroying organisms as quickly as possible after the surgical procedure is completed. (Every patient brings contaminants into the surgical environment.)
2. Protecting the surgical support team and instrument processing personnel from contact with known infectious material such as frank pus, gas gangrene, tetanus, tuberculosis or any other communicable disease, and
3. Preventing cross contamination of other patients.

Note: “Carriers:” Water supports the growth of certain gram-negative bacilli, including *Serratia*, *Pseudomonas*, and *Alcaligenes*, *Flavobacterium* genus.

Any equipment or procedure requiring water in its operation presents a hazard, especially if the water is not “continually changed” or sinks cleaned. Un-sterile water, the universal solvent and transporter, can support, maintain and protect almost every contaminant produced by human beings.

- All tap water has *Pseudomonas* in it. The pH, Calcium and Magnesium in tap water can stain instruments and inactivate disinfectants. Therefore, distilled or deionized water is recommended for use-dilution with all concentrated instrument cleaners and approved disinfectants.

The numbers, types and species of microorganisms in a water supply and in used cleaning supplies increases every time the cleaning products are reused.

Good House Keeping Procedures in the instrument cleaning area should be followed after the surgical instruments have been cleaned and removed from the cleaning station after each case; they are,

1. After one use, pour used / contaminated cleaning solution and rinse water down the drain. Note: As a guide, a 1:10 dilution of Bleach to Water (approximately one cup full) is used as a disinfectant and poured down the drain in the scrub sink (daily).
2. After one use, dispose of used / contaminated plastic wash-basin(s) in contaminated waste bag (container). If reusable Stainless Steel basins are used, clean basins with approved instrument cleaner and sterilize (recommended) or disinfectant.
3. After one use, dispose of all used / contaminated cleaning supplies, i.e., instrument cleaning brushes, instrument wipes and towels.
4. Counter Tops, Cabinets and Doors should be cleaned especially around handles or push plates where contamination is apt to occur with an approved disinfectant. Note: As a guide, a 1:10 dilution of Bleach to Water is used as a disinfectant to wipe down surface areas.
5. Using new, clean and dry cleaning supplies, set up for the next cleaning procedure.
6. Scrub sinks and spray heads on faucets should undergo thorough cleaning daily. The walls around scrub sinks should receive daily attention. Spray and splash from scrub antiseptics build up around sink and should be removed. Note: As a guide, a 1:10 dilution of Bleach to Water is used to wipe down surface areas (daily).

Good House Keeping Cleaning Procedures should be followed to contain and confine organisms, known or unknown, to prevent contamination. For these reasons, “The reuse of used / contaminated cleaning supplies for multiple instrument sets is never recommended.”