



Diamatrix Hand-Held Reusable Instruments Care, Cleaning and Sterilization Instructions

Proper cleaning, rinsing and drying will contribute significantly to the useful lifespan of your instruments.

1) Cleaning

- a) Immediately after surgery, rinse the instrument with distilled water. Never let foreign materials, such as BSS or proteins, dry on the instrument.
- b) Clean the instrument with a mild soap solution and gently scrub stubborn stains with a soft toothbrush as needed, paying particular attention to joints and serrations, which are primary locations for foreign particles to accumulate. Do not use metal brushes, steel wool or abrasive powders that will seriously damage the surface finish of instruments.
- c) Completely rinse the instrument with distilled water, followed by air drying, before returning them to the instrument tray for storage. Instruments may also be dried using a lint-free cloth or a hot-air blower.

2) Lubrication

- a) Most instruments should not require lubricating baths, but it is recommended that an instrument with joints and moving parts be lubricated after cleaning. Treat such parts with a steam-permeable, water soluble, instrument lubricant following each cleaning and prior to sterilization.

3) Ultrasonic Cleaning

- a) The best method for cleaning the instrument is to use an ultrasonic cleaner. Ultrasonic cleaning is recommended for all instruments at the end of each surgical day or after a number of surgical procedures as indicated by the appearance of the instrument.
- b) Follow the instructions as supplied by the manufacturer of your ultrasonic cleaner. Always use distilled water for ultrasonic cleaning or a cleaning agent specifically recommended for surgical instruments.
- c) Water temperature of approximately 150°F (65°C) is ideal for this purpose and will produce the best cleaning results. Many ultrasonic cleaners come with built-in heaters, but if your unit does not have one, you may use an immersion heater or heat the water in a separate stainless steel container.
- d) The instrument(s) should be placed in a wire or perforated plastic basket and suspended in the cleaning solution to avoid damaging delicate tips. Instruments must be totally submerged in the solution but should not be in contact with each other. If you use ultrasonic cleaning regularly, a cleaning cycle of approximately 5 minutes should be adequate, but some debris may require additional time.
- e) After the ultrasonic cycle, thoroughly rinse the instrument under running water and then follow with a final rinse in a clean bath of distilled water. Cleaning and rinsing solutions should be replaced frequently.
- f) Air-dry the instrument or dry with a hot-air blower or a lint-free cloth before returning it to storage.

4) Inspection and Storage

- a) All microsurgical instruments should be inspected under magnification at the end of each surgical day by qualified personnel to ensure they're in proper working condition. Damaged instruments should be removed from circulation and immediately repaired or replaced.
- b) Instruments with delicate tips should be stored using a protecting cover.
- c) The instrument should be stored in the same container in which it will be sterilized. If multiple instruments are in the same tray, they should not be touching.

5) Sterilization

- a) Instruments should be sterilized in the open or unlocked position, if applicable.
- b) Instruments made of different alloys should be cleaned and sterilized separately.
- c) Steam autoclave sterilization is recommended. Standard autoclave cycle:
 - i) Steam sterilize at 270°F (132°C) for 5 minutes.
 - ii) Other time and temperature cycles may be used but the user must validate any deviation from the recommended time and temperature. Refer to the manufacturer of your autoclave to confirm appropriate cycle settings. Autoclave temperatures should not exceed 280°F (137°C) to avoid damage to any non-metallic parts.

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