

Troubleshooting Guide For Stainless Steel

Problem	Cause	Prevention
Spotting	Insufficient rinsing.	Rinse with running water for one to two minutes.
	Insufficient drying after ultrasonic cleaning.	Rinse with hot water. Follow with alcohol rinse to remove soap residue.
	Contaminated solutions.	Ultrasonic solutions should be changed at least once per day.
	Sterilizer has not been cleaned.	Clean sterilizer weekly. Use only distilled water.
Pitting	Chemical attack on instruments.	Rinse and dry thoroughly. Use approved cleaning solutions only.
	Corrosion from dissimilar metals.	Separate stainless steel, carbon steel and aluminum during cleaning and sterilizing. Dip carbon steel in surgical milk.
	Disruption of oxide layer.	Handle instruments with care. Do not use instruments that show wear.
	Improperly maintained autoclave.	Clean and flush water lines and disinfect inner chamber.
Rust	Contaminated sterilizer.	Clean and flush sterilizer weekly.
	High alkaline detergents.	Use neutral pH solutions.
	Dried blood.	Rinse instruments thoroughly.
	Acid reaction from low pH detergents.	Avoid contact with incompatible solutions.
	Mixing dissimilar metals during cleaning and sterilization.	Separate carbon steel, aluminum and stainless steel.
	Chromium oxide stains from excessive heat.	The protective layer has been damaged and the component should no longer be used.

OBSOLETE

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