

# Cleaning, Disinfection and Sterilization Flowchart

## 1<sup>st</sup> step



## CLEAN

- Use detergent, clean water and a clean brush
- Note: An ultrasonic device may be used

*Why?* To loosen dirt and debris on surfaces



## 2<sup>nd</sup> step



## RINSE

- Use clean, warm water

*Why?* To remove detergent residue, dirt and debris from surfaces

## 3<sup>rd</sup> step



## DISINFECT

- Use an appropriate solution depending upon use of instrument or surface
- Follow proper contact time

*Why?* To kill most harmful germs (except spores)

or

## STERILIZE

Use an appropriate and approved sterilizer (i.e. autoclave, dry heat)

*Why?* To kill all germs & spores

To be used on:

- Critical Items
  - Items intended to penetrate intact skin
  - Items that hold sterile items, if applicable
- e.g., tattoo or body piercing equipment, scalpel handles

Note: Pressure cookers, glass-bead sterilizers, microwaves, UV light, glutaraldehyde, immersion in boiling water and domestic ovens are NOT approved.

Choose one of the following

### Low Level Disinfection

To be used on:

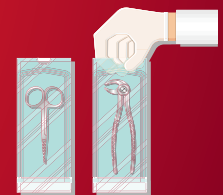
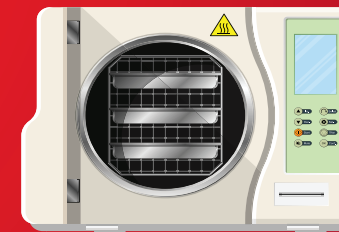
- Non-Critical Items
  - Items that contact but do not penetrate intact skin
  - Items that do not contact blood or body fluids
- e.g., work surfaces, combs, brushes

### Intermediate/High Level Disinfection

To be used on:

- Semi-Critical Items
  - Items that may accidentally penetrate intact skin
  - Items that contact blood or body fluids
- e.g., laser wands, tweezers, foot spas

## Autoclave Sterilization



Durham Health Connection Line  
905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729

[durham.ca](http://durham.ca)

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 905-668-2020 or 1-800-841-2729

