

Cleaning, Disinfection & Sterilization Flowchart

1st 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



2nd step



RINSE

- Use clean, warm water

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

3rd 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
- e.g. tattoo, 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



Environmental Help Line
905-723-3818 or 1-888-777-9613

durham.ca/health

If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 905-723-3818 or 1-888-777-9613

