

Cleaning, Disinfection and 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, 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:

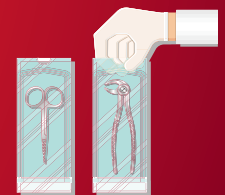
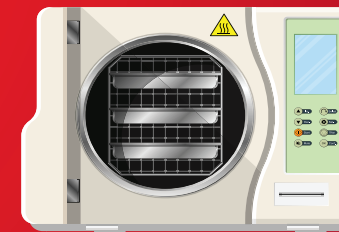
- Non-Critical Items
 - Items that contact but do not penetrate intact skin
 - Items that do not contact blood or body fluids
- e.g., work surfaces, combs, brushes

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



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