



QUALITY FOOTCARE PRODUCTS

577 Eden Avenue, London, ON N6C 2Z5
Tel: (519) 681-4763 Fax: (519) 681-9317

1-866-833-9352

email: quality@qfootcare.com

RECOMMENDED PROCEDURES FOR CARE, MAINTENANCE AND STERILIZATION OF QFC SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS

Unless alternative instructions are supplied with individual products, these instructions apply.

All QFC instruments are supplied non-sterile unless specified otherwise. The use of all QFC instruments should be limited to qualified personnel.

An investment in quality

When you purchase QFC instruments, you are investing in quality products. Care and maintenance will prolong their lives and afford the user with many years of trouble free service. Please follow the **care and maintenance guide**.

A guide to the most common problems associated with instruments and their solutions is detailed for your reference.

Care before cleaning and sterilisation

After removing from packaging, QFC instruments should be cleaned and sterilized before use.

During cleaning and sterilization cycles **do not** mix dissimilar metal instruments. Keep stainless steel/ chromium plated/ silver plated instruments etc. separate and do not process in the same cycle; otherwise corrosion or staining may occur on the stainless steel instruments.

At all times ensure any solutions/compounds which are used to clean/sterilize the instruments are neutral pH 7. If low pH solutions are used they will cause black staining and high pH solutions will cause brown staining on the surface and in the joints of the instruments. If solutions do need to be used which are not neutral pH7, they must be thoroughly washed off afterwards by liberal amounts of demineralized water.

In all procedures, ensure that the instruments are in their unlocked, open positions and that the joints are exposed to the cleaning/sterilizing processes. If instruments are locked during sterilizing, stresses in the joints will be produced which will eventually weaken the joints and lead to fracture.

The majority of QFC instruments which contain joints or metal to metal contact (e.g. scissor blades) are supplied pre-lubricated. We recommend after removal from packaging the instruments are rinsed and cleaned prior to sterilization.

We do not recommend "WD40" or other industrial lubricants for our instruments. A specially formulated lubricant, (Instrument Lube 3700), is available from QFC that is excellent for surgical instruments lubrication.

Rinsing

After removal from packaging or immediately after use, the instruments should be washed/rinsed with warm running water. Care should be taken to remove all traces of blood, saliva, mucous, saline solutions or foreign debris, especially from serrations and joints. Nylon bristled brushes or cotton wool may be used to aid this process. **Under no circumstances** must iron wool, iron bristled brushes or abrasives be used.

The instruments should then be **cleaned** – see "**cleaning**" and then thoroughly dried. At this stage the instruments should be carefully inspected to ensure that their working parts and function are not impaired. Any instruments which have joints or have metal to metal contact should then be lubricated with instrument lubricants and stored in a clean and dry environment.

Cleaning

Hand-washing is recommended, especially for Micro, Ophthalmic and delicate instruments. If machine washing or chemical cleaners are to be used, the manufacturers instructions should be followed.

Ultrasonic cleaning

Ultrasonic cleaning is permissible (if instruments contain plastic components, check individual instructions supplied with instruments to confirm permissibility). After ultrasonic cleaning, the cleaning

solution should be washed away by rinsing in demineralized water. The instruments should then be thoroughly dried and lubricated.

We recommend Micro, Ophthalmic and delicate instruments are not ultrasonically cleaned as ultrasonic cleaning could impair the delicate cutting edges and tips of the instruments. Change ultrasonic solution regularly as recommended by solution manufacturer.

Disinfection

We do not recommend this form of cleaning. However, if no other option exists, it may be performed under strict guidelines. Disinfection may be performed by immersion or by washer sterilizers. Manufacturers instructions on concentrations of solutions and processing times should be strictly adhered to. After disinfection, wash thoroughly with sterilized water, dry the instruments.

Some disinfectants will cause corrosion to stainless steels. Allow minimum immersion time of instruments in solution as recommended by disinfectant manufacturer.

Change disinfection solution regularly and where recommended use corrosion inhibitors.

Caution Cleaning, rinsing, disinfection, and boiling render instruments “clean”. They **do not** make instruments sterile.

Sterilization

Unless specified otherwise with instructions for individual products, sterilization may be performed by Autoclaving, Dry Heat, Flash Autoclaving, Gamma Irradiation, Cold Sterilization and Ethylene Oxide.

We do not recommend “Glass Bead” sterilization – a process by which only the front, working end of the instrument is inserted into a heated vat of glass/silica beads. As this process may not destroy any migrating spores or bacteria which may be at other parts on the instrument away from the working end. This form of sterilization may also lead to instrument discolouration

and early fracture – due to variable temperature gradient from the front to the back of the instrument.

Some instruments **cannot** be sterilized by **all** of the above processes. Consult individual instructions supplied with instruments which indicate suitable sterilization method.

Do not allow temperature of sterilizers/autoclaves to exceed 180 degrees centigrade, otherwise, the instruments may be discoloured or their strength (temper) may be impaired.

IMPORTANT - Always sterilize instruments in their open positions.

Disengage all ratchets (locks) and ensure enough surface of the joints is exposed to allow the sterilizing medium access to the surfaces hidden under the joints (box locks for example). If instruments are sterilized in a process where heat is involved and the instruments are left in their locked positions, **the joints will crack.**

After sterilization the instruments should be allowed to cool and fully air dry before use.

Whichever process is used, adhere strictly to manufacturers sterilization instructions. Wherever water is used in sterilization procedures, e.g. in “steam autoclaving”, we recommend **salt free demineralized water** is used instead of tap water.

Caution For dry heat (hot air) sterilization we recommend paraffin oil is used to lubricate the joints and ratchets of instruments before sterilization.

Caution Avoid the contact of your surgical instruments with the following materials as these materials will cause discolouration/corrosion which could lead to failure.

Abrasives, Aluminium chloride, Barium chloride, Betadine solutions, Bleaches, Bromine, Iodine, Mercury or its compounds, Peroxides, Potassium chloride, or any liquids, compounds which produce volatile/corrosive vapours.

Always be gentle and treat your instruments with care.