






Preparing and Transporting Reusable Soiled Instruments for Decontamination and Sterilization

Prior to procedure, gather a clean, rigid, leak-proof, biohazard-labeled, reusable transport container from the designated storage area ¹	
	Step 1: Don personal protective equipment (PPE) and remove gross soil debris from instrument(s) at the point-of-use ²
	Step 2: Place pre-cleaned instrument(s) in a biohazard labeled transport container. Place lid on container and lock to secure contents. Remove PPE and perform hand hygiene. Transport to designated soiled/utility room
	Step 3: Don required PPE (gloves and eye protection (e.g., goggles or face shield))
	Step 4: Place instruments in open position in the biohazard labeled transport container and saturate with enzymatic spray/foam. Place lid on biohazard bin and lock to secure contents. <i>Items must remain saturated with enzymatic spray/foam according to the product instructions for use (IFU)³</i>
	Step 5: Clean and disinfect biohazard labeled transport container used in Step 2. ⁴ Return transport container to designated location

1 Storage area is identified for each healthcare facility in collaboration with infection prevention team

2 Reusable instrument instructions for use (IFU) must be referenced for acceptable point-of-use decontamination method

3 Enzymatic spray/foam IFU must be followed to ensure instruments saturated until transported to designated decontamination room/area

4 Use facility-approved cleaner/disinfectant

References

Adapted from Nebraska Medicine “Soiled Reusable Instrument Process and Transport” staff educational materials

U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Retrieved May 16, 2023, at <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1030>

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Additional considerations:

Prior to procedure:

- This may be in a designated clean closet or space within a clinic/exam room. Work with infection prevention to identify appropriate space

Step 1:

- Refer to instrument IFU to determine appropriate method to remove gross soil at the point-of-use (e.g., sterile water or cleaner/disinfectant wipe)

Step 2:

- Transport container must follow OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard: 1910.1030(d)(2)(viii)

Step 3:

- Facility may opt to utilize reusable safety goggles/shield for multiple staff use. Refer to manufacturer's IFU for goggles/shield for cleaning/disinfection process

Step 4:

- Two containers may be necessary depending on the workflow of the facility. For example, one is used for the initial transport to the designated soiled/dirty utility room. The second is for transport to the designated area/department for additional decontamination prior to high-level disinfection or sterilization. Work with the infection prevention team to conduct a risk assessment and identify a workflow process

Step 5:

- If the transport container IFU does not identify a cleaner/disinfectant, work with the infection prevention team to conduct a risk assessment to identify an appropriate facility-approved cleaner/disinfectant