

REPROCESSING *tips*



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The Dirt on Detergent

During customer visits, I've witnessed a few less than precise protocols for mixing detergent solutions. Often the reprocessing staff doesn't know how far to fill the sink with water, or how much cleaner is delivered by each press of the detergent pump. But, what difference does it make, you may ask?

A lot, it turns out. Detergent concentrations can affect the efficacy of manual cleaning, which may compromise disinfection. And over time, the potency of the detergent can impact the physical condition of the endoscope, particularly the insertion tube.

Fresh detergent solution must be prepared for each manual cleaning, following the detergent manufacturer's instructions, which are typically located on the container's label and indicate the exact amount of detergent to use in a measured amount of water. Normally, the detergent comes with a hand pump that delivers a metered amount of detergent. The amount of cleaner delivered may vary based on the manufacturer of the pump, the viscosity of the detergent, the condition of the pump and how far the pump is depressed.

The proper concentration of detergent and fresh water is critical to help remove organic matter from the scope prior to disinfection. If organic matter remains on the endoscope, then the disinfectant may not be able to penetrate underneath it to reach the scope. Furthermore, the effectiveness of the detergent deteriorates as the enzymes break down organic matter.

Once you've cleaned your scope, it is equally critical to thoroughly rinse ALL the detergent off the endoscope and out of the channels. This flushes the last of the organic matter from the scope's surface and removes any soap residue, which can interact with the disinfectant. Residue can also build up over time and cause the insertion tube to discolor or make it feel "sticky."

Finally, make sure to remove any excess moisture from the endoscope so that residual water does not dilute the solution you use in the next step—high-level disinfection. For additional help, contact Olympus service or your Olympus sales representative.

Clean it First

After you've PRECLEANED at the bedside and LEAKAGE TESTED your scope, you're ready for MANUAL CLEANING (first make sure that all appropriate water-tight caps are attached). To optimize your cleaning, follow these steps every time:

- 1 Prepare fresh detergent solution, following the detergent manufacturer's instructions.
- 2 Submerge the endoscope in the freshly made detergent solution and thoroughly clean its exterior surfaces.
- 3 Using the appropriate brushes, carefully clean the endoscope's channels, ports and interior surfaces (distal tip, suction channel and cylinder, instrument channel port, etc.). Repeat until all debris is removed.
- 4 Attach the required flushing connectors to the endoscope, as described in the endoscope's instruction manual. Wash out all debris by suctioning detergent solution through the instrument/suction channel and flushing detergent solution into the air, water and instrument channels. Repeat until no more air bubbles are discharged.
- 5 If your endoscope has auxiliary water, elevator wire, balloon and/or de-aerated water channels, remember to flush detergent solution into them as well whether or not these channel were used in the procedure.
- 6 Soak the endoscope in detergent solution for the time recommended by the detergent manufacturer.
- 7 Once you complete the manual cleaning step and remove the endoscope from the detergent, drain the detergent from the sink/basin. Detergent solutions should never be reused.

Rinse and Repeat

After cleaning, thoroughly rinse and dry your endoscope prior to disinfection.

- 1 Rinse the endoscope in clean water. Flush all channels (including the auxiliary water, elevator wire, balloon and de-aerated water channels, if applicable) several times using syringes of clean water. Repeat until no more soap bubbles are discharged.
- 2 After rinsing, remove all of the water from the channels by blowing air into each of them. Then wipe down the instrument using a soft, lint-free cloth.

Surefire Solutions

- ▶ Freshly prepare the detergent solution prior to each manual cleaning.
- ▶ Put a permanent water-level mark in the sink or container to be used for cleaning.
- ▶ Following the detergent manufacturer's recommendations, calculate and post the correct amount of detergent that should be added to fresh water.
- ▶ When using a pump, determine the amount of detergent delivered each time the pump is fully depressed. When pouring detergent from a bottle, use an accurate measuring device.