



Rigid Endoscope Decontamination Process

The decision on the reprocessing method must be made in accordance with material compatibility, manufacturer’s recommendations, and national standard and guidelines. For thermostable equipment, sterilization should be preferred to disinfection.

Always consult the manufacturer’s instruction for use/manual for clarifications.

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| Step 1 – PRE-CLEANING post procedure |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard Precautions must be followed and appropriate PPE should be worn (e.g. gloves, gown, eyewear etc.). |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare an area in procedure room to perform pre-cleaning (e.g. counter area). |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess device for defects or conditions that may hinder the full re-processing procedure. <p>NOTE: Do not re-process medical device if defective. Contact manufacturer for specific instructions about decontamination and potential device repair (if applicable).</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After procedure, open an enzymatic endoscope bedside pre-cleaning kit, squeeze excess solution from the sponge and wipe down the outside of the device. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flush all channels with pre-cleaning kit detergent using an adequate syringe. • Omit if no channels are present. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disconnect all detachable parts and place rigid endoscope with any parts in transport container. • Discard any “Single use items” in regular trash. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transport device and all detachable parts in a leak-proof, puncture resistance container with a tight-fitting lid from procedure room to reprocess room. Make sure container has a visible biohazard tag to allow easy identification that inside contents are contaminated and therefore hazardous. <p>NOTE: Complete cleaning of the patient-used rigid endoscope should be started within the recommended time set by the manufacturer. If bedside pre-cleaning or transit time is a greater than 2 hours, ensure that additional manual cleaning (see Manual Cleaning Section) is performed if visible residual debris is still present.</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the rigid endoscope is performed on day that will delay the sterilization process past 24 hours, perform steps 2 through 4 below. |

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| Step 2 – MANUAL CLEANING and DECONTAMINATION , performed in reprocessing room |
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| <p>NOTE: The interior and exterior of the rigid endoscope must be meticulously cleaned, this is vital to the effectiveness of subsequent processes used for disinfection or sterilization. The endoscope should be disassembled properly to ensure adequate reprocessing, all detachable parts such as valves, adapters, and caps should be removed according to the manufacturer’s instructions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard Precautions should be followed at ALL times and appropriate PPE should be worn (e.g. goggles or face shields, long sleeved gown, surgical mask, heavy duty gloves etc.). |
| <p>NOTE: If necessary, pre-soak rigid endoscope per manufacturer’s recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immerse endoscope in a prepared detergent solution. • Vertical soaking is recommended as it prevents air bubbles from forming. • Enzymatic solution must be used as per manufacturer’s instructions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dilute 5 ml of solution per 2 Liter of warm water. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean all lumens and outer surfaces. • Brush scope distal tip and forceps-elevator (if applicable). Ensure the device is open (e.g. stopcocks, hinges). |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discard “Single use items” after use. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discard any used enzymatic detergent solution after each use. |



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Step 3 – RINSING

- Following the cleaning process, all parts of the rigid endoscope should be thoroughly rinsed with approved water.
 - Flush all channels using an adequate syringe or omit process if no channels are present.
 - Completely immerse endoscope in a large volume of distilled water and thoroughly rinse device as recommended by the manufacturer's IFU.
 - **The rinsing water should be discarded at the end of each rinse.**
- NOTE:** Thoroughly rinsing of the endoscope is necessary for removing any debris or detergent residue that could interfere with the efficacy of the sterilization process.
- Users should always check the IFU or device's operator manual for additional specific instructions on cleaning, disinfection and/or sterilization that may be applicable.

Step 4 – DRYING

- Remove the flexible fiberscope from the water and dry the exterior with a fresh soft, lint-free cloth.

Step 5 – DOCUMENTATION

- Log rigid endoscope that will be transported to external SPD for sterilization as appropriate.

Step 5 – STORAGE

- Store devices in a manner that will protect them from damage and contamination. Removable parts (valves, stopcocks, etc.) should not be attached to the rigid endoscope during storage. If it is not possible to hang the endoscopes, they should be stored in a protected and well-ventilated area.

NOTE: There is insufficient data offering the maximal outer duration for the use of appropriately cleaned, reprocessed, dried, and stored endoscopes.

- TTUHSC EP has chosen the maximum storage interval before reprocessing to be 21 days.
- Endoscopes will be reprocessed prior to next use if previous reprocessing exceeds the 21 day mark.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- Always follow manufacturer's instructions for all devices and/or solutions.
- Do not mix other cleaning or disinfecting products together.
- Utilized Air and Water channel cleaning adapters per manufacturer's instructions.