

The ASICO Care Guide:

Tips on Instrument Cleaning, Handling, & Storage

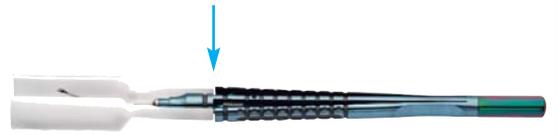
Introduction

Thank you for your business! We hope you will enjoy using our instruments as much as we enjoyed making them. First, we recommend that you remove the instruments from their containers and examine them under the microscope. If you are not satisfied for any reason, contact ASICO within 48 hours from the time of receipt.

Handling/Transport

When handling instruments, avoid contact with instrument tips. As many of these instruments have very fine tips, they can be easily bent. Many of our instruments come with protective caps that should be kept on at all times when the instruments are not being used. For other instruments, we recommend using soft silicone tubing to protect the tips. Both can be sterilized. When transporting instruments, cover them with a damp cloth to prevent the instruments from drying out before cleaning.

Make sure the cap does not go beyond this point.



Jaws should remain open.

Cleaning

Manual Cleaning

Use a mild soap solution and a soft toothbrush to remove any stains, paying special attention to box locks, serrations, and joints. Never use abrasive powders or steel wool to remove stains as they can ruin the finish on the instruments. Use distilled or demineralized water to rinse the instruments thoroughly. Once clean, use an air dryer or a lint-free cloth to dry the instruments completely.

Ultrasonic Cleaning

This is the best method for cleaning your instruments. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for your ultrasonic cleaner. Only use cleaning solutions recommended for stainless steel and distilled or demineralized water, changing the solution frequently. Water should be heated to 150° F (66° C), using an immersion heater or a separate stainless steel container if your cleaner does not have a built-in water heater. Make sure that the instruments do not come into contact with each other. Use distilled or demineralized water to rinse the instruments thoroughly. Once clean, use an air dryer or a lint-free cloth to dry the instruments completely.

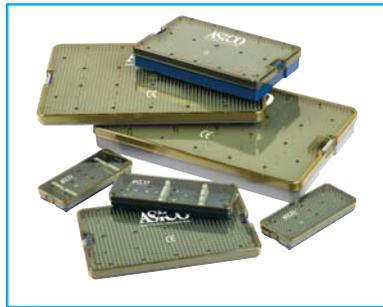
Lubrication

Ophthalmic surgical instruments do not normally require lubricating baths. However, we do recommend that you lubricate any moving parts after each cleaning. Use only silicone or Teflon® lubricants. Make sure that the instruments are completely free of stains or corrosion prior to lubrication as lubricants have a tendency to lock them in.

Stains

Color of Stain	Cause	Solution
Brown-orange	Phosphate deposits from detergent used	Try removing with pencil eraser. If stain does not come off, use a neutral detergent. Rinse instruments thoroughly with distilled water.
	Rust in water used in autoclave	
Dark brown	Dried blood	Clean instruments thoroughly before sterilizing.
Purple-black	Detergent used contains ammonia	Rinse instruments thoroughly. Avoid detergents with ammonia.
Blue-black	Dissimilar metals being autoclaved together	Separate instruments by metal type before sterilization.
Black	Acid reaction	Remove with pencil eraser. Use a neutral detergent in the future.

Sterilization



It is important to know that sterilization is not cleaning. All instruments should be cleaned prior to sterilization, following the guidelines above. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for your sterilizer.

Stainless steel instruments can be sterilized by steam autoclaving, chemical disinfectants, ethylene oxide gas, or dry hot air. We believe that gas and chemical sterilization are the best methods, but they may not be the most convenient. Steam and heat sterilization require less time but may damage very delicate stainless steel instruments especially when proper cleaning has not taken place.

We recommend not subjecting your instruments to unnecessary autoclaving, regardless of method. Separate instruments by material and make sure the instruments do not come into contact with each other when being placed in the sterilization tray. We have a wide selection of sterilization trays from which you can choose from.

For more information, contact us today. Some of our instruments include special care instructions. Please reference those instructions for proper sterilization.

Sterilization Guidelines (excludes diamond knives and injectors)

Method of Sterilization	Sterilizer Type	Sample Configuration	Temp.	Exposure Time
Steam	Gravity Displacement	Wrapped	132°C (270°F)	34.0 min.
Flash	Gravity Displacement	Unwrapped	132°C (270°F)	10.0 min.
Steam	Prevacuum	Wrapped	132°C (270°F)	4.0 min.
Flash	Prevacuum	Unwrapped	132°C (270°F)	4.0 min.

Pulsed Steam Sterilizers: Please follow the manufacturer's guidelines for Pressure Pulse Sterilizers.

Storage

Proper storage is also very important in prolonging the life of your instruments. We recommend storing the instruments in the same trays in which they were sterilized. If you are stacking instruments, make sure that the heavier items are on the bottom and lighter items on top. Instruments with fine or sharp tips should be separated from each other. Keep the protective caps or silicone tubing on the instruments to ensure that they will not come into contact with each other. Knives and other instruments with diamond parts should also be stored in separate containers.



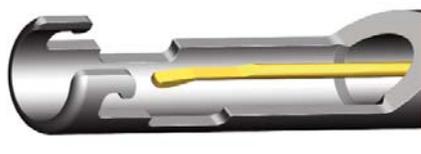
A Note About Metals

Stainless steel: Stainless steel is an alloy of various metals. It is a hard material that is resistant to but not free from corrosion. It is the material of choice for fine instruments that need to retain its shape and sharpness.

stainless steel



titanium



Titanium: Titanium is a very durable yet lightweight metal, almost half as light as stainless steel. It is also resistant to but not free from corrosion. However, it is also very pliable in comparison to stainless steel. Therefore it is the material choice for bulkier or more complex instruments that do not need to retain its sharpness.

Repairs

ASICO offers a complete repair and replacement service for all types of surgical instruments, **regardless** of manufacturer (excludes diamond knives from other manufacturers). Give us a call today for details: **1-630-986-8032** or **1-800-628-2879** (toll free).

The more you know...
ASICO
 Today's Precision... Tomorrow's Vision

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