

SKLAR ELECTRO-COATED INSTRUMENTS RECOMMENDED CARE & CLEANING INSTRUCTIONS

CAUTION: The following instructions are for all Sklar Electro-Coated Instruments. Read instructions prior to use. Improper operation and care or use for purposes other than that intended can lead to premature wearing out of the surgical instruments. Always process new instruments prior to initial use.

PRE-TREATMENT

General Blood and bodily fluids can cause pitting on instruments and if left to dry, can be difficult to remove. In order to achieve successful decontamination, disinfection and sterilization, always wipe or rinse instruments immediately after use. If rinsing is not immediately available, pre-treat instruments with a neutral pH/enzymatic solution at point of service. Sklar Spray-Zyme™ (10-2722) is a multi-enzymatic spray that creates long lasting, heavy foam specifically designed for pre-cleaning soiled instruments and scopes. Handle with care and limit contact with hard surfaces to avoid damage to the coating on the instruments

RINSING

General Immediately after surgery, remove organic material by rinsing soiled instruments under cold, running water. Limit direct contact with hard surfaces as this could cause the coating to wear off more quickly in those areas. Never process dissimilar metals (stainless, chrome, copper, etc.) together. Always wear protective apparel as a standard precaution. Refer to OSHA and AORN standards for recommended precautions.

CLEANING

General Transport instruments to processing decontamination/cleaning area. Limit direct contact with hard surfaces as this could cause the coating to be damaged. Protect instruments by wrapping in a towel or CSR wrap during transportation. Always keep soiled instruments contained during transport to prevent exposure to bloodborne pathogens or other potentially infectious organisms. Before beginning the cleaning process, ensure that instruments have been thoroughly rinsed with copious amounts of cool running water. Separate instruments with dissimilar metals. Several methods of cleaning are available. See also AAMI TIR12. Improper cleaning methods can result in damage to instruments or equipment and limit the warranty.

Soak An enzymatic cleaning bath or neutral pH detergent effectively breaks down organic material from instruments when fully submerged for 10 minutes. Sklar Enzymatic™ (10-2776) is an effective neutral pH enzymatic cleaner that can be safely used on stainless steel instruments, rubber, plastic, equipment and cloth. Phosphate-free Sklar Kleen™ (10-1627, 10-1607, 10-2776) is ideal for cleaning stainless steel instruments and glassware. Take care to prevent sharp tips (scissors, knives, osteotomes, etc.) from touching. Limit direct contact with hard surfaces as this could damage the coating. Do not mix dissimilar metals. Thoroughly rinse instruments with cool running tap water (use distilled or demineralized water if possible) to remove solution(s). Change solutions as directed.

Ultrasonic Cleaning

Mechanical cleaning of surgical instruments is the preferred cleaning method as it efficiently removes soil and provides consistent washing and rinsing parameters during the process.

- 1) Fully submerge all instruments in an open position to effectively clean hinges, box locks and other moving parts. Prevent sharp tips (scissors, knives, osteotomes, etc.) from touching to avoid scratching. Do not mix dissimilar metals. Use distilled or demineralized water if possible.
- 2) Follow ultrasonic cleaner manufacture’s operating instructions.
- 3) Rinse instruments with water to remove cleaning solution(s).
- 4) Always lubricate instruments prior to sterilization. Sklar Instru-Guard™ Lubricant Spray (10-1636) or Concentrate (10-1635) is an easy-to-use, water-soluble lubricant and rust inhibitor, that is safe to use on coated instruments. Regular lubrication is essential to ensure the life of instruments.

NOTE: Sklar Kleen Liquid (10-1627), Powder (10-1607) and Low Foam (10-2701) formulas, as well as Sklar Enzymatic (10-2776) are safe for use in ultrasonic cleaners.

CAUTION: Processing needle holders and forceps with the ratchet in a closed position may crack box locks and hinges. Limit contact with hard surfaces as this could damage the electrosurgical coating.

Automatic Washer Sterilizer

Mechanical cleaning of surgical instruments is the preferred cleaning method as it efficiently removes soil and provides consistent washing and rinsing parameters during the process. Follow manufacturer’s operating instructions. Handle with care & limit direct contact with hard surfaces as this could damage the coating. Sklar Kleen Low Foam (10-2701) is safe for use in automatic cleaners. Ensure instruments are lubricated before sterilization and after the final rinse cycle.

- Manual Cleaning** Always wash instruments in a manner that provides proper decontamination. Handle with care and limit direct contact with hard surfaces as this could damage coated instruments.
- 1) Mix a neutral pH detergent / enzymatic solution with luke-warm water following the manufacturer's mixing instructions and immerse instruments if possible. Highly acidic or highly alkaline pH detergents are not recommended for use on Sklar instruments. Sklar Kleen Liquid (10-1627), Powder (10-1607) and Low Foam (10-2701) formulas, as well as Sklar Enzymatic (10-2776) are effective manual cleaning agents.
 - 2) Use a soft nylon brush (10-1657) to manually scrub instruments, concentrating on hinged areas, crevices and other difficult to clean locations. Do not use stainless steel brushes as it could damage the coating.
 - 3) Brush delicate instruments carefully, separating them from general instruments whenever possible.
 - 4) Prevent scratching by not allowing sharp tips (scissors, knives, osteotomes, etc.) to touch.
 - 5) Check instruments for proper function and condition: smooth blade closure and opening, proper jaw alignment, working hinges, and proper locking ratchets. Sklar Polish (10-1626) is an effective stain remover for use on all stainless steel, chrome and brass instruments.
 - 6) Visibly check instruments to ensure surfaces are clean and free from damage, stains and bioburden.
 - 7) Thoroughly rinse instruments using running water (use distilled or demineralized water if possible), paying close attention to hinged areas, box locks and moving parts to ensure they are rinsed thoroughly and no debris remains.
 - 8) If storing, use a clean, lint-free cloth to dry instruments. Protect instruments by wrapping with a towel or CSR wrap during storage.
 - 9) Lubricate instruments prior to packaging or sterilization.
 - 10) Always store in a clean, dry environment.

STERILIZATION

- General** All blood, body fluids and tissue should be completely removed from instruments prior to sterilization. Separate dissimilar metals prior to sterilization.
- Lubrication** Lubrication is key to preserving the proper function of your instruments. Lubricate all hinged instruments that have metal-to-metal contact at the screw or box lock. A non-silicone, water-soluble lubricant such as Sklar Instru-Guard™ Lube (10-1636 or 10-1635) is recommended. Do not rinse. Do not use industrial oils or lubricants.
-

STERILIZATION

- Autoclavable
- 1) Process instruments individually or in sets.
 - 2) Protect sharp tips. Place heavy instruments on the bottom of sets. Limit direct contact with hard surfaces as this could cause the coating to wear off more quickly in those areas.
 - 3) Always process all instruments in the open position. Instruments locked during sterilization can develop cracked hinges or other problems resulting from heat expansion.
 - 4) Autoclave instruments according to AAMI ST79 standards. Sklar Electro-Coated instruments have been validated for the following steam sterilization cycle (wrapped configuration): Pre-Vacuum Steam, 4 min. @132°C/270°F with 20 min. dry time.

NOTE: Make sure autoclave chambers are cleaned regularly and as recommended by the manufacturer. Effectively remove stains in your autoclave chamber using Sklar Sheen Autoclave Cleaner & Conditioner (10-2736).

Chemical / Cold
Sterilization

CAUTION: Prolonged chemical action can be detrimental to instruments. Sklar Electro-Coated instruments are not recommended for use in chemical / cold sterilization solutions.

To properly care for and maintain the life of your instruments, Sklar recommends its line of cleaning agents.

SKLAR CLEANING PRODUCT LINE

P/N	Description	Application
10-2722	Sklar Spray-Zyme 22oz. Bottles, 12/cs	Pre-Treatment
10-2724	Sklar Spray-Zyme 1 Gallon Bottles, 4/cs	
P/N	Description	Application
10-2777	Sklar Enzymatic Detergent 1 Gallon Bottles, 4/cs	Cleaning Soak
10-2775	Sklar Enzymatic Detergent 1 Gallon Bottles, 2/cs	Ultrasonic Cleaning
10-2776	Sklar Enzymatic Detergent 1 Gallon Bottle, 1/ea	Manual Cleaning
P/N	Description	Application
10-2701	Sklar Kleen Low Foam 1 Gallon Bottles, 4/cs	Cleaning Soak
10-1608	Sklar Kleen Powder 5lb. Container, 4/cs	Ultrasonic Cleaning
10-1607	Sklar Kleen Powder 5lb. Container, 1/ea	Manual Cleaning
10-1630	Sklar Kleen Powder 3.5lb. Pitcher, 4/cs	Automatic Washer Sterilizer
10-2765	Sklar Kleen Powder 3.5lb. Pitcher, 1/ea	
10-1612	Sklar Kleen Liquid 8oz. Bottles, 6/cs	
10-1614	Sklar Kleen Liquid 8oz. Bottle, 1/ea	
10-1613	Sklar Kleen Liquid 1 Gallon Bottles, 4/cs	
10-1627	Sklar Kleen Liquid 1 Gallon Bottles, 1/ea	
P/N	Description	Application
10-1635	Sklar Intru-Guard Lube 1 Gallon Concentrate, 4/cs	Lubrication
10-1634	Sklar Intru-Guard Lube 1 Gallon Concentrate, 1/ea	
10-1636	Sklar Intru-Guard Lube 8oz. Spray Bottles, 12/cs	
10-1637	Sklar Intru-Guard Lube 8oz. Spray Bottle, 1/ea	
P/N	Description	Application
10-1626	Sklar Polish Corrosive Stain Remover, 8 oz. Jar, 12/cs	Instrument & Autoclave Maintenance
10-1629	Sklar Polish Corrosive Stain Remover, 8 oz. Jar, 6/cs	
10-1927	Sklar Polish Corrosive Stain Remover, 8 oz. Jar, 1/ea	
10-2738	Sklar Sheen Spray Foam Cleaner and Conditioner, 22 oz. Bottles, 12/cs	
10-2736	Sklar Sheen Spray Foam Cleaner and Conditioner, 22 oz. Bottle, 1/ea	

Note: It is the responsibility of the reprocessor to ensure that the reprocessing, as actually performed using equipment, materials and personnel in the reprocessing facility, achieves the desired result. This requires validation and routine monitoring of the process. Likewise any deviation by the user from the instructions provided must be properly evaluated for effectiveness and potential adverse consequences.