

Millions of Bubbles

ULTRASONIC EXPERT SERIES

 **BEYOND**
CLEAN



Thomas Overbey, CCSVP
Marketing Director, Ultra Clean Systems Inc.

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With millions of bubbles working together, serving as microbrushes helping to eradicate biomatter from surgical instruments, ultrasonic cleaning does great work if used properly. Like adding salt to your favorite dish to enhance its flavor, an ultrasonic machine needs a type of salt to enhance its effect on cleaning instruments. This salt takes the form of detergent, which significantly enhances the effect of cavitation energy. This is why most instrument instructions for use (IFUs) stipulate using a detergent to clean instruments ultrasonically; typically, an enzymatic type. These detergents help break the bond of debris literally stuck to instruments and are vital to the cleaning process. The cleaning issues to be aware of are:

- Instruments can only begin to be considered clean if they are **completely submerged** in the ultrasonic bath. If not, the exposed portions of instruments will allow foreign matter to dry or biofilm to form.
- Make absolutely sure that the **detergent is being dispensed** into your machine properly.
- Given the fact that your dishwasher doesn't reuse the same water, **consider draining the water after each use**. Refer to AAMI ST79:2017.
- Instruments must be clean and free from detergents after any cleaning cycle. Make sure the instruments, especially lumens, are **properly rinsed and free from residual detergent**.

With your help, ultrasonic machines can do great work! Make sure your instruments are properly precleaned prior to ultrasonic cleaning. Keep your machine clean and maintained by referring to the manufacturer instructions for use (MIFUs) and your ultrasonic cleaning system will provide years of great service for your sterile processing department and your patients.

Beyond Clean Ultrasonic Expert Biography:

**THOMAS OVERBEY, CCSVP
MARKETING DIRECTOR,
ULTRA CLEAN SYSTEMS, INC.**



Thomas Overbey's experience originated as media producer at the University of South Florida, College of Medicine, producing content for medical research and education. Overbey has generated live and on-demand surgical procedures for peer-to-peer training and produced the first live hybrid surgical case pushed to iPhones and computers. For the past six years, Overbey has served as the marketing director for Ultra Clean Systems promoting safe cleaning practices, and serves as an advocate for connecting the OR to the SPD for maximum operational efficiency. Tom has presented numerous times at IAHCSSM conferences as well as at the inaugural OR Today Live! event in 2015 on residual protein detection. He has published educational content for Healthcare Purchasing News as well as PROCESS, formerly Communiqué, an educational and feature publication for IAHCSSM. Tom also publishes NewSplash, a weekly newsletter bringing positive news and educational event information for the sterile processing and infection control community.

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