

MATERIAL COMPATIBILITY

WHEN IN DOUBT, CHECK THE IFU!

MANUAL CLEANING EXPERT SERIES

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Jamie Zarembinski, CCSVP
Clinical Educator, Key Surgical

Beyond Clean Manual Cleaning Expert Series:

MATERIAL COMPATIBILITY WHEN IN DOUBT, CHECK THE IFU!

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Clinical Educator - Sterile Processing, Key Surgical

Who has been told you can't use metal bristle brushes to clean surgical instruments? At some point or another, most sterile processing professionals have heard this, and some facilities only mention stainless steel cleaning brushes in hushed voices or in secret locker room meetings. Let's put cleaning brush material compatibility out in the open and have a real discussion. Instrument cleaning brushes come in varying bristle materials that have produce different levels of friction when used. Nylon bristle brushes are the most versatile bristle material available in instrument cleaning brushes. Nylon provides a good amount of friction and is materially compatible with just about an instrument out there. If more friction is needed, stiffer bristle materials such, as extra-rigid nylon and polypropylene are a great option for a more abrasive material that still provides wide material compatibility. Metal bristle brushes such as brass and stainless steel provide the most abrasive materials available and are useful when softer materials just aren't cutting it, but metal bristle brushes can cause damage to coated and insulated instruments. If metal bristle brushes are so useful, why do they get such a bad rap? The easy answer is because they can cause damage to some instrumentation when misused. But we're in luck, the FDA requires that device manufacturers provide specific information in their reprocessing instructions which can include required brush length, diameter, and bristle material. If you ever find yourself unsure of what type of bristle material should be used to clean a device, look no further than the manufacturer instructions for use!

Have more manual cleaning questions? Contact Jamie at: Jamie.Zarembinski@KeySurgical.com

Beyond Clean Manual Cleaning Expert Biography:

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Jamie Zarembinski is a Certified Central Service Vendor Partner (CCSVP) through IAHCSSM. She has over 7 years of experience in the Sterile Processing Industry supporting departments as a sales representative and clinical educator at Key Surgical. Recent recipient of the Robert Hilbolt Award for outstanding healthcare professional in the Sterile Processing industry from the Michigan Society of Healthcare Central Service Professionals (MSHCSP). Currently, Jamie is a Clinical Educator for Sterile Processing at Key Surgical. She plays an active role in the sterile processing industry as a speaker at medical facilities and educational seminars around the United States. She works with sterile processing staff to share, develop, and implement best practices based on recommendations by our governing bodies such as ANSI/AAMI, IAHCSSM, SGNA, AORN and others. She is a member of IAHCSSM, AORN and is a voting member of AAMI ST/WG 40. Jamie is working towards her CRCST, CIS, CER, and CHL.

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