

PROCESS: HOW TO SEE & ELIMINATE WASTE! PART 1



SPD LEADERSHIP EXPERT

BEYOND
CLEAN

John Kimsey

VP, Processing Optimization &
Customer Success | STERIS

Beyond Clean SPD Leadership Expert™:

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How to see and eliminate waste in less than 300 words! We'll need two parts for this one! It all comes down to observations and measurements. These two power principles are the one-two punch that can knock out waste and optimize your Sterile Processing department! Everyone can google "lean waste" and read the traditional definitions so let's spend our time on a specific definition of waste in Sterile Processing based on what our "Customers" would be willing to pay for.

If you asked the typical SPD Customer, the OR, and Clinics, for example, they would be willing to "pay" Sterile Processing to do four things: 1) Clean instruments, 2) Assemble instruments, 3) Sterilize instruments, and 4) Deliver the instruments. Of course, there may be a few other things they would be willing to pay for, but the main intent of SPD is to perform these four activities. Anything outside of these specific tasks of Clean, Assemble, Sterilize, and Deliver is waste in our Customer's eyes or not worth paying for. Moving instruments across the room – waste. Setting up your workstation – waste. Looking for missing instruments – waste. Looking for a container – waste. Going to the storeroom for blue wrap – waste. You get the idea. Not all waste can be removed, but the point is this – how good are you at observing, identifying, and measuring waste?

To me, observations are the most powerful tool that leaders rarely use. Here's what you need to do. Take a notepad, block out one hour, and go observe your department working. Document everything you see while keeping the four Customer-approved tasks at the forefront of your thinking. Do this at least once a week and next month in Part 2 we'll discuss what you saw!

Have more questions? Contact John at: john_kimsey@steris.com

Beyond Clean SPD Leadership Expert™ Biography:

John Kimsey
VP, Processing Optimization &
Customer Success

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John Kimsey is a seasoned healthcare management professional who helps leadership teams and Sterile Processing departments optimize operational performance. Leveraging 10 years of non healthcare management consulting experience, he joined STERIS in 2001 and began to merge lean operational approaches with healthcare's clinical requirements, creating a new vision for Sterile Processing.

His first published article in 2005, "The Sterile Processing Factory Goal: 100% 3 " solidified his approach by elevating Sterile Processing and incorporating best practices with People, Process, and Leadership providing efficient and quality patient outcomes. In the years' since, John has been published several other times and spoken at national and international conferences on sterile processing topics John has managed both onsite and offsite reprocessing centers, consulted large and small healthcare Customers, spoken internationally on Lean Sterile Processing, and continues to offer advice and hands on assistance to optimize customer's reprocessing departments.

At STERIS, John helps customers, industry partners, international teams, and healthcare systems optimizing their SPD/CSSD operations for measurable success. Whether solving labor shortages, leadership deficiencies, strategic decisions, or process and quality issues, John comes with a desire to see people succeed.

The logo for BEYOND CLEAN features a red ECG line on the left, followed by the word "BEYOND" in black, "CLEAN" in red, and a red horizontal line on the right.