

Respect your
Water

ULTRASONIC EXPERT SERIES

 **BEYOND**
CLEAN



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

Beyond Clean Ultrasonic Expert Series:

RESPECT YOUR WATER

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What is the single most effective cleaning agent used for reprocessing surgical instruments? It's not detergents; it's water. Detergents are vital in the process but without water, reprocessing instruments comes to a screeching halt.

Your water supply is your lifeline to effective cleaning and therefore must be respected for it to perform for you. Regular testing will yield valuable information for keeping your water within operating parameters and help you to:

- Conserve water
- Reduce detergent usage
- Ensure optimal cleaning
- Avoid damaging stains on instruments
- Minimize the need for additional rinsing
- Reduce time in troubleshooting problems
- Even improve morale when things are running smoothly

There are several methods to maintain good water quality. The AAMI TIR₃₄ reference document is a superb guide on water quality for reprocessing surgical instruments. Combine this document with regular testing and you will have the vital information to get and maintain control of your water quality.

There are many ways to treat and condition the water to perform optimally for your situation, but it isn't a one-and-done deal. Water quality can change significantly, especially after a change in seasons. You should also keep in mind that critical (treated) water stored in tanks can be a harbinger for bacterial growth, thus canceling its positive attributes.

For ultrasonic cleaning, impurities in the water, such as dissolved minerals, bacteria, and other matter get in the way of cleaning. This reduces the effectiveness that good quality water can provide. Compensating by adding more detergent helps, but consider the water source.

Respect your water and it will respect you.

Have more ultrasonic questions? Contact Tom at: tom.overbey@ultracleansystems.com

Beyond Clean Ultrasonic Expert Biography:

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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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