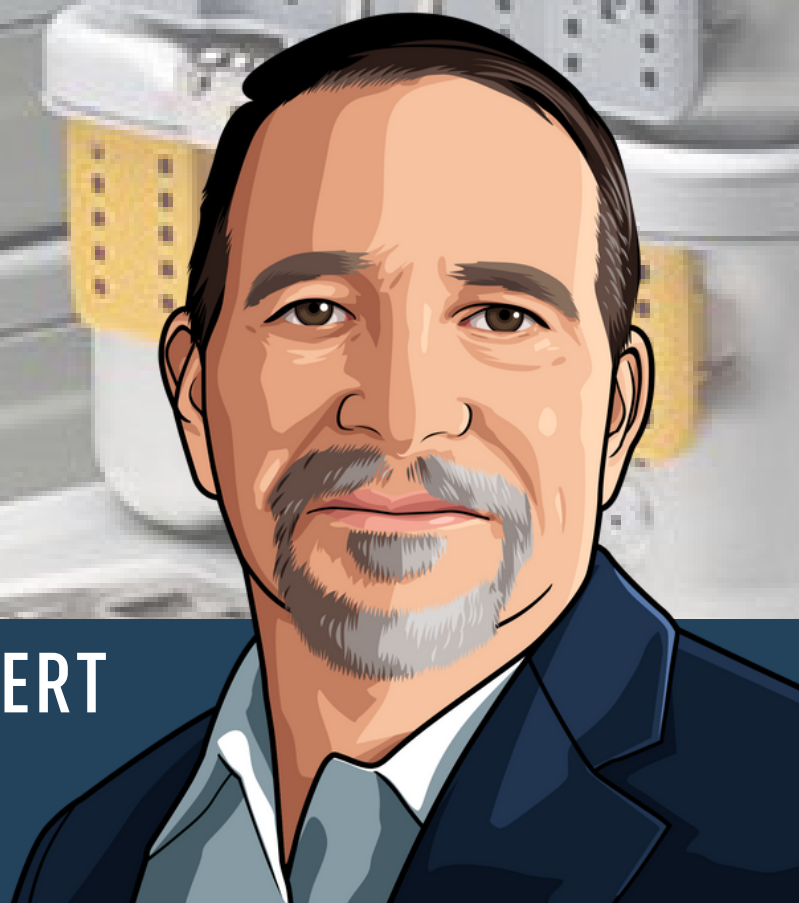




HOW IS A **RIGID CONTAINER** DIFFERENT THAN WRAP?

STERILE CONTAINERS EXPERT

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Mike Strand

Retired Regional Sales Director | Aesculap

Beyond Clean Sterile Containers Expert™:

HOW IS A RIGID CONTAINER DIFFERENT THAN WRAP?

Mike Strand | Retired Regional Sales Director, Aesculap

Most hospitals in the U.S. have a combination of flat, blue wrap, along with rigid containers. Both methods of sterile item containment are tried-and-true sterile barrier systems and are effectively used in most every hospital on a daily basis. So, what are the differences and why would a hospital use one over the other?

Regarding single-use blue wrap, because of the wide variety of sizes, it is very versatile and able to accommodate everything from very small items to large surgical sets. Additionally, the wrap materials have a long history of efficacy and patient safety as a sterile barrier. And, wrapped sets have a smaller footprint than a rigid container and may take up less shelf space. Unfortunately, wrapped sets typically are not recommended to be stacked one on top of the other. The long-term cost and sustainability factors often do not favor blue wrap and, a major concern, is the worry over torn or punctured wrap which could compromise the sterile barrier.

Reusable rigid containers can handle a variety of item and set sizes and, because of the solid encasement, can provide very good protection for the set contents. Sterile assurance, aseptic presentation, and stacking in storage are proven features of a rigid container system. And, there aren't any tears to potentially contaminate the contents. Additionally, repairs and maintenance are part of the rigid container equation. Reusable Containers often last 10+ years but will come with an initially higher price tag as they typically are a capital purchased item. But, over time, cost containment and the environmental impact might favor a container system.

Both sterile barrier systems have their place in the modern U.S. hospital and are proven to be effective mechanisms for enhancing surgical patient safety. As such, each hospital will need to assess the best combination of wrap and rigid containers that best suits their clinical and financial needs.

Have more sterile container questions? Contact Mike at: mike.strand@aesculapusa.com

Beyond Clean Sterile Containers Expert™ Biography:

MIKE STRAND

RETIRED REGIONAL SALES DIRECTOR

AESCULAP®



Michael started his medical device journey in 1984 and spent most of his career in Sales and Sales Management in the Pacific Northwest. The past 31 years were with Aesculap, based in the Seattle area. Michael was also Aesculap's Northwest Healthcare Solutions Regional Sales Director, responsible for 9 Sales Representatives and company growth.

Now retired, Michael enjoyed solution-oriented projects that created efficiencies focusing on industry standards and best practices. A passion for education and teaching kept Michael engaged with Sterile Processing Departments and Operating Rooms, as well as new hires within his organization.

Aesculap is an industry leader in Surgical Instruments, Sterilization Containers and Technical Repair Services. Helping hospitals Operate with Greater Precision, Aesculap's products and services assist with enhanced Patient Outcomes, create Operational Efficiency, enable Sustainability initiatives, and provide Clinical and Staff Satisfaction.

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