

Brush Styles: Why have them and what do they do?

MANUAL CLEANING EXPERT SERIES

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Jamie Zarembinski, CCSVP
Clinical Educator, Key Surgical

Beyond Clean Manual Cleaning Expert Series:

BRUSH STYLES: WHY HAVE THEM AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

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When was the last time you saw someone using a toothbrush to comb their hair? If you answered the question with a guffaw and a response of “never, why would anyone do that?” you are correct. Having a variety of brush styles in decontamination is vital for a successful manual cleaning policy. A one-style-fits-all attitude will not promote effective and efficient instrument cleaning; only having a variety of cleaning tools and training on how to choose the appropriate tool for each instrument will. The number of different brush styles needed can vary significantly based on the instrumentation in the department. At a minimum, every facility must have toothbrush style brushes and a variety of channel cleaning brushes. Additionally, the type of bristle material, for example, polypropylene, rigid nylon, brass, or stainless steel should be considered. When selecting the appropriate bristle material for a cleaning brush, there are several considerations. Always check the instrument manufacturer IFU to review cleaning brush recommendations before cleaning any instrument, but a good rule of thumb is to start with nylon before moving to a more abrasive bristle material. Internal channels and lumens can be challenging to clean with standard channel cleaning brushes. Brushes with a protective tip or fan-tip for closed-end lumens should be used to avoid damage to the internal walls of the instrument. Cleaning surgical instrumentation should not require serious physical effort. The biggest contributing factor to effective and efficient instrument cleaning is having the right tools and training for the job!

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

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Jamie Zarembinski is a Certified Central Service Vendor Partner (CCSVP) through IAHCMM. 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, IAHCMM, SGNA, AORN and others. She is a member of IAHCMM, AORN and is a voting member of AAMI ST/WG 40. Jamie is working towards her CRCST, CIS, CER, and CHL.

