



PUTTING THE PUZZLE TOGETHER  
**FOR POINT OF USE**  
PRECLEANING COMPLIANCE  
PART 1

ENZYMATIC EXPERT SERIES

 **BEYOND**  
CLEAN



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Clinical Education Manager, Certol Intl.

*Beyond Clean Enzymatic Expert Series:*

## PUTTING THE PUZZLE TOGETHER FOR POINT OF USE PRECLEANING COMPLIANCE, PART 1

*Peggy Spitzer, AAS, BA, MA.Ed.*

*Clinical Education Manager, Certol International*

The drumbeat for starting instrument processing at point of use continues. It takes a team with perioperative management, infection preventionists AND SPD leadership to keep pressing for compliance after the latest survey visit.

Compliance involves two important steps: (1) precleaning with sterile water and sterile sponges DURING procedures; and (2) pretreatment with wet towels or chemical sprays to prevent residual soils from drying during transport.

The **first** puzzle piece is education to motivate teams at point of use in surgical, labor/delivery, endoscopy and other critical departments with heavy soil loads. Clinical teams need to understand how dried soils lead to biofilm, corrosion and instrument damage.

**Another** puzzle piece is making compliance as easy as possible. For example, non-saline sterile water should be readily available with a method to collect soiled sponges and excess liquid. Contaminated items should NOT be transported in any type of liquid bath.

A **third** critical puzzle piece is transit time from point of use to central sterile processing. If always under one hour, covering contaminated instruments with wet towels may be sufficient as a moisturizing method. Delays are much more common due to overnight procedures (labor / delivery), processing log jams in SPD, transport from off-site clinics and personnel shortages to transport or process instruments. Delays in transit may create the need for effective pretreatment chemical agents.

Part 2 of this expert series will cover how to select and implement pretreatment spray chemical agents.

Have more enzymatic questions? Contact Peggy at: [pspitzer@certol.com](mailto:pspitzer@certol.com)

*Beyond Clean Enzymatic Expert Biography:*

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Peggy Spitzer is a Colorado native with over 30 years of combined experience as a healthcare provider, college faculty and clinic manager. Currently she is clinical education manager at Certol Intl., a manufacturer of detergents and disinfectants for healthcare. She develops and presents education programs to hospital and dental professional groups focusing on infection prevention, instrument processing and best practices for chemicals. Peggy is a past president, past secretary and current treasurer of the Rocky Mountain Central Sterile Chapter promoting education and certification for Sterile Processing professionals. She is an active speaker for APIC and Sterile Processing professional groups and consultant to the Colorado State Dental Board. A special highlight was speaking at the national IAHCSSMM convention in 2019.

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