

# Client Care Items and Equipment in Community-based Services

Use disposable, single-use critical and semi-critical medical devices and equipment when possible.

**Single-use** – a critical or semi-critical medical device, designated by the manufacturer, for one-time use. It may not be used a second time, even on the same client. Manufacturers may indicate a device is single-use by one of the following:

- Disposable; consumable; not for reuse
- Discard after single use
- Use only once
- Do not use twice
- Symbols such as 

A single-use medical device is disposed of after one use on a client.

**Single-client use** – a critical or semi-critical medical device, designated by the manufacturer, for re-use on one client. It may not be used on another client. Manufacturers may indicate a device is single-client use by one of the following:

- For use on a single client
- Must not be reprocessed for use by another client

A single-client use medical device is disposed of:

- upon client discharge or completion of service;
- after a certain number of uses, as recommended by the manufacturer;
- when worn out or damaged.

Refer to the [Single Use Policy FAQ sheet](#) for additional information.

### Cleaning of reusable medical devices and equipment

Cleaning requirements for reusable medical devices and equipment is based on risk of infection to clients. Medical devices and equipment are classified as non-critical, semi-critical or critical based on the Spaulding Classification System.

### Spaulding's Classification of Medical Devices

	Non-critical	Semi-critical	critical
<b>Definition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Items that do not touch the client or touch only intact skin, but no mucous membranes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Items that come into contact with non-intact skin or intact mucous membranes, but do not penetrate body surfaces</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Items penetrating body tissues allowing for direct contact with the bloodstream or another sterile area of the body</li> <li>Semi-critical items with the potential for contact with open lesions, or irritated mucous membranes, are treated as Critical items</li> </ul>
<b>Examples</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental surfaces, shared wheelchairs in clinics, treatment surfaces (mats, plinths and tables), blood pressure cuffs, toys, stethoscopes, audiometers, shared walking aids</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reusable ear syringe nozzles, trans-rectal probes, vaginal, nasal and rectal specula</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Surgical and dental instruments, foot and nail equipment</li> </ul>
<b>Reprocessing requirements (minimum requirements)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cleaning followed by low-level disinfection</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cleaning followed by high-level disinfection after every use, between clients and if item becomes contaminated</li> <li>Contact Infection Prevention and Control for more information</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cleaning followed by sterilization after every use, between clients and if item becomes contaminated</li> <li>Contact Infection Prevention and Control for more information</li> </ul>

### Low-level disinfectants

- Low-level disinfectants (LLD) are used for non-critical medical devices and equipment (i.e. does not touch mucous membranes or non-intact skin)
- Follow manufacturer instructions for use
- Refer to Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for safety information
- Wear personal protective equipment (PPE) as required for cleaning and disinfecting medical devices and equipment
- Use a two-step cleaning and disinfection process. One wipe is used to clean visible soil and another new wipe for disinfection.
- Clean equipment starting at the cleanest part of the equipment moving towards the dirtiest.
- Ensure the item is sufficiently wet with the chemical to ensure the wet contact time is achieved as recommended by the manufacturer
- Place the item on a clean surface to air dry. Do not actively dry the item with a towel or other device.

Low-level Disinfectants (LLD)			
Agent	Comments	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p><b>Accelerated Hydrogen Peroxide (AHP)</b>  <math>H_2O_2</math>                      &lt; 0.5%</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to manufacturer instructions for wet contact time</li> <li>If product requires dilution, refer to the manufacturer instructions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Available as liquid or wipe</li> <li>Non-toxic</li> <li>Active in the presence of organic materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May not be suitable for some surfaces; check manufacturer directions for use</li> <li>Off-gassing may occur if accelerated hydrogen peroxide and quaternary ammonium products are used on the same surface</li> </ul>
<p><b>Chlorine Compounds</b>                      Household bleach products                      (0.15% chlorine and chlorine compounds; 500ppm Sodium hypochlorite)                      1:50 dilution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to manufacturer instructions for wet contact time</li> <li>Must be made fresh daily</li> <li>Use only fresh tap water for mixing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low cost</li> <li>Readily available in non-hospital setting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>No cleaning properties</b></li> <li>Inactivated by organic material</li> <li>Corrosive to metals</li> <li>Irritant to skin and mucous membranes</li> <li>Extremely limited shelf-time once diluted</li> <li>Requires adequate ventilation for use</li> <li>Must be stored in closed containers, away from heat or sunlight</li> <li>Stains clothing and carpets</li> </ul>
<p><b>Enhanced Quaternary Ammonium Compounds (Enhanced Quats)</b>  <math>NH_4^+</math></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Refer to manufacturer instructions for wet contact time</li> <li>Available as liquid or wipes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-corrosive</li> <li>Low irritant</li> <li>Can be used in areas designated for food preparation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Cannot be used to disinfect instruments</b></li> <li>Limited use as disinfectant due to narrow antimicrobial spectrum</li> <li>Diluted solutions may allow for growth of some microorganisms</li> <li>Off-gassing may occur if accelerated hydrogen peroxide and quaternary ammonium products are used on the same surface</li> </ul>

### High-level disinfection and sterilization

Contact [Infection Prevention and Control](#) for more information on high-level disinfection and sterilization practices including performance requirements.

### Cleaning and disinfectant products

**Cleaning product labels must clearly indicate the following information:**

- DIN number;
- Product name, clearly labelled;
- Quantitative statement of ingredients;
- Intended use;
- Area and site of use;
- Directions for use, including compatible surfaces/instruments;
- Dilution procedure if required;
- Mode of application;
- Wet contact time;
- Rinsing instructions if required;
- Temperature for use and storage;
- Appropriate precautionary symbols and statements;
- First aid instructions; and
- Expiry date.

#### **Important considerations**

- Select the correct product for the intended task (e.g., cleaning or disinfecting)
- Use AHS-approved cleaning solutions and disinfectants
- Check the expiry date prior to use
- The presence of organic soil reduces the effectiveness of disinfectants. Use a two-step process for surfaces that are visibly soiled. Use one wipe to clean and another wipe to disinfect.
- Store all disinfectants out of the reach of children and confused individuals
- Ensure manufacturer's recommended wet-contact time is achieved for proper disinfection
- Cleaning and disinfecting products must have a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for staff to refer to at all times and labels must be clearly marked
- Do not use two different types of cleaning/disinfecting products on the same equipment/environmental surface as the chemicals may react with each other (e.g., accelerated hydrogen peroxide products and quaternary ammonia products)