

Reprocessing medical devices

Choosing the right cleaning agent for your automated cleaning and disinfection process

Establish the material properties of your medical devices or study the information given by the manufacturer (according to EN ISO 17664). Then choose the process that is best suited to your requirements. Whether alkaline or neutral, we have the right solution.

alkaline cleaning, pH > 10		neutral cleaning	
robust medical devices	sensitive medical devices	strongly contaminated	weakly contaminated
Alkaline cleaning at high temperature	Alkaline cleaning at low temperature with enzymatic assistance	Neutral cleaning at low temperature with enzymatic assistance	Neutral cleaning
deconex® 28 ALKA ONE-x Cleaning temperature: 70-90 °C, pH > 10	Two-component system deconex® 28 ALKA ONE-x + deconex® TWIN ZYME Cleaning temperature: 35-55 °C, pH > 10	Two-component system deconex® TWIN BASIC + deconex® TWIN ZYME Cleaning temperature: 45-55 °C, pH neutral	deconex® TWIN BASIC Cleaning temperature: 55 °C, pH neutral
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – also removes fixed proteins – disinfecting effect – effective against prions (depending on the process conditions) Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – surgical instruments made of stainless steel – MIS instruments – anaesthetic equipment – hospital footwear 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – powerful cleaning performance under mild conditions – saves time due to short – effective against prions (depending on the process conditions) Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – rigid optical devices – MIS instruments – anaesthetic equipment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – optimum neutral cleaning even with hard water – cleans better than all traditional neutral-(enzymatic) cleaners Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – flexible endoscopes – rigid optical devices 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – good cleaning performance – for lightly contaminated, non-critical items Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – instrument containers – hospital footwear

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The key factor determining the success of a decontamination process is the actual cleaning. The contaminants that have to be removed from surgical instruments and other medical devices are usually organic in nature. Organic contamination is best removed with highly alkaline agents at elevated temperatures. Such conditions are however usually too aggressive for many medical items, i.e. we are faced with the issue of material compatibility.

The problem can only be solved through the ability of the chemical manufacturer to formulate suitable processing agents coupled with the experience and know-how of the process developer. The combination results in products and processes that give the best possible cleaning performance and at the same time take material compatibility fully into account.

The development and choice of processing agents and processes can also be influenced by official regulations and guidelines, such as for example in Germany with the requirement of the health authority for alkaline cleaning at pH values >10.

Without losing sight of the main task of cleaning, it will of course never be possible to process all instruments and medical devices with just one detergent.

The overview presented here is helping you to decide which cleaning process to apply, and in particular which cleaning agents. Detailed information on the individual products and processes can be found in our product data sheets and evidence sheets.

Advantages of the deconex® cleaning systems

- Best possible cleaning performance
- All our cleaning processes work with tap water
- None of the processes require a neutralizer

Notes

- With all processes, we recommend the use of the biocompatible drying aid deconex® 64 NEUTRADRY (except for the cleaning of flexible endoscopes).
- Not all WDs are equipped for two-component cleaning. Our application specialist will be pleased to advise you.