

Infection Control for Instruments

The Best Services, Actions, & Order

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The Best Services, Actions, & Order

The best services we can offer anyone are PIH education and informed choice.

Cleaning & Disinfection (C&D) Options in Action:

Cleaning: debris removal for functional or mechanical purposes

Deep Cleaning: cleaning that uses an advanced or aggressive method (such as Texas Flush), where difficult residue is problematic, for functional or mechanical purposes

Chemical Cleaning (Chem-Clean): cleaning that uses chemicals to dissolve persistent debris or mineral aggregates for functional or mechanical purposes

Ultrasonic Cleaning (UC): removes debris, including bio-debris, with subsonic waves to disrupt persistent aggregates, for functional or mechanical purposes

Sanitary Cleaning: removes debris, including bio-debris with SOAP, or with a labeled antiseptic or sanitary cleanser, to chemically disrupt some germs and mechanically remove others. When used as directed, sanitary cleaning makes surfaces safe for their intended use (*not for face or mouth items for new users*).

Sanitary Treatment: reduces vegetative pathogens on items to safer levels for intended use without cleaning them, using a justified but unregulated process. This can also broadly describe unbillable courtesies and spot-treatments of touch-pieces incidental to repair. When specified, these are best described as [action] + [method], with details and basis on file (*not for face or mouth items for new users*).

Disinfecting: destroys vegetative pathogens on nonliving surfaces, by name or by level. *This is the most common germicidal service, especially for mouthed parts or before new users.*

Sanitizing: reduces *bacteria* to sanitary levels when other germs are not relevant, making touch-pieces safer for handling and unshared mouthed parts safer for mouthing by the same user. (“(Some sanitizers are also labeled effective against lipid enveloped viruses, but sanitizing is not sufficient action to turnover used

mouthing parts to new users).

Sterilizing: totally eliminates all life, including spores, this service is not possible on flesh and unlikely on instruments, due to requirements for safe and effective method claims.

Freshening or Polishing: (unstandardized) improves odors with enzymatic or scented chemicals, or appearance with surface treatments. Some destroy germs, but *none are considered sanitary or germicidal care* because intended use and levels are different.

Order of Operations (examples of how germicidal methods follow cleaning)

Sanitary Clean: Soap Wash & Rinse (Bubble Bath, & Scrubbing Flush, Clean Water Rinse)

Sanitized COA: Disassembled Clean & Sanitize all, Disinfect MP, Bright-work Buff

Sanitary Quick Fix: HH, Disinfect MP (& bore?), sanitize touch-pieces. Repair & playtest. When finished, repeat the same sanitary care before returning to client.
**Avoid touching the face and consider barriers. Counsel client PIH-HH aftercare for 2-3 months, or as per shop.*

Chem-Clean & Sanitary: Prep, CC & Rinse, Soap Wash & Rinse, Disinfect MP.

UC Deep & Disinfect: Prep, UC & Rinse, Disinfect & Rinse, Disinfect MP.