

CAUTION

Inspect Device Prior to Sterilization

Before preparing for sterilization, all medical devices should be inspected. Generally un-magnified visual inspection under good light conditions is sufficient. All parts of the devices should be checked for visible soil and/or corrosion. Particular attention should be paid to:

- Soil “traps” such as mating surfaces, hinges, shafts
- Recessed features
- Features where soil may be pressed into contact with the device
- Cutting edges should be checked for sharpness and damage
- For devices that may be impacted check that the device is not damaged to the extent that it malfunctions or that burrs have been produced that could damage tissues or surgical gloves.

Functional checks should be performed where possible:

- Mating devices should be checked for proper assembly
- Medical devices with moving parts should be operated to check correct operation
- Rotating devices should be checked for straightness, sharpness and damage

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Remove and repair damaged instruments/containers.

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OTA does not define the maximum number of uses appropriate for re-usable medical devices. The useful life of these devices is dependent on many factors including the method and duration of each use, and the handling between uses. Careful inspection and functional testing of the devices before use is the best method of determining the end of serviceable life for the medical device.