

The Modern CSSD's Equipment Guide to Washing & Decontamination



Medical Washer Disinfector for the CSSD

When are they used?

Washer disinfectors are used for automated cleaning of surgical instruments or medical devices. They offer increased productivity compared to staff manually cleaning and provide a consistent, repeatable cleaning process so staff can be sure devices are thoroughly cleaned every time.

How do they work?

A typical washer disinfector cycle consists of multiple phases including pre-wash, several washes with specific cleaning agents under controlled conditions, one or several rinses, and a thermal rinse appropriate for the types of items contained in the load.

Ultrasonic Cleaners for Surgical Instruments

When are they used?

Ultrasonic cleaners provide a form of mechanical cleaning typically used for medical devices or surgical instruments that may be too delicate for a washer disinfector and/or have hard-to-reach areas.

How do they work?

Ultrasonic cleaners use acoustic cavitation to clean surgical instruments and devices. Cavitation forms microscopic air bubbles that can reach small crevices and hard-to-reach areas on a device such as fine serrations or box lock joints, imploding on the instrument's surface.



Hospital Cart Washers for the CSSD

When are they used?

Hospital cart washers provide efficient cleaning, disinfecting, and drying of surgical instrument case carts, containers, utensils, and other reusable non-critical items used in hospitals and healthcare facilities.

How do they work?

Cart washers work by using various cleaning phases – wash, rinse, thermal rinse, dry, etc. to provide low- to intermediate-level thermal disinfection of case carts and other items.

Medical Decontamination Sinks

When are they used?

Decontamination sinks are used for manual cleaning of medical devices and surgical instruments.

How do they work?

Typically available in a two- or three-bay configuration, staff using decontamination sinks must follow a multi-step process that involves immersing the device in a cleaning solution and using a physical action to wipe, brush, and/or flush the device.

