MELA*therm*® 10

How to optimise cleaning and protect instruments

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MELAG
competence in hygiene

In every washer disinfector, cleaning performance and maintaining the value of instruments are dependent on several factors.
Details of the most influential factors and instructions on how to avoid errors during processing are provided below.

Further instructions are contained in the "Processing Instruments" brochure from the instrument processing work group AKI (download from www.a-k-i.org) or from your instrument manufacturer.

1. Wet/Dry storage

1.1. Used instruments should preferably be stored in dry conditions. Please ensure that storage occurs in conditions that are light and temperature controlled as far as possible. Keep the duration of storage to the minimum.

1.2. Where a very long wait time is required, at a minimum a rinse program should be run in MELAtherm in order to prevent drying and coagulation. Due to the low cost per cycle, it is also possible to run a regular cleaning and disinfection program.

1.3. Where instruments are stored in wet conditions, this can lead to corrosion and in some cases excess foam can build up during the device's cleaning process. If it is essential for the instruments to be stored in wet conditions, they must first be thoroughly rinsed with running water prior to being placed in the washer disinfector.

1.4. Instruments must not be left soaking overnight in water. Storage in aqua dem/dest can also produce adverse effects where this occurs in conjunction with residue such as blood etc.

2. Preparation and pre-cleaning

2.1. Water insoluble processing compounds should be avoided or must be manually removed directly after use and rinsed with water. This includes dental cement, root canal disinfectant, alginates, silicones etc. Please adhere to the compounds' product data sheets.

2.2. Hollow bodies (handpieces and turbines, cannulas etc.) must be checked for patency.

2.3. Follow the instructions specific to the relevant area as detailed in the user manual. As far as possible, instruments should be dismantled prior to processing in accordance with manufacturer guidelines.

2.4. Corroded and/or incrusted instruments must be removed and thoroughly cleaned or repaired, as the other instruments can be contaminated by the corrosion.

3. Loading instructions

3.1. In general, it is important to ensure that no spray shadows are caused by loading. When using wash trays of third party manufacturers, ensure that spray shadows are not caused by merely the design of the trays.

3.2. Instruments that cannot be dismantled must be in an open position for processing.

3.3. Scratch-sensitive instruments (e.g. dental mirrors) must be inserted separately at sufficient intervals to each other. Being placed loosely in a wash tray can result in damage to the mirror surface for example.

3.4. When using perforated cartridges ensure that instruments are separated and do not drop en masse to the bottom. "Loose material" should be avoided.
The separator inserts for perforated cartridges from the MELAG accessories program can be used for this purpose.

3.5. Instruments may only be processed in the washer disinfector where this has been specifically approved by the manufacturer. Generally these instruments are identified directly or in the processing instructions with this type of symbol: 
Where necessary request the manufacturer's processing instructions in accordance with EN ISO 17664.

3.6. Adhere to the instrument manufacturer's processing instructions, in particular with regard to the tolerance values for process agents.

3.7. Never process any disposable instruments. Disposable instruments are identifiable by a mark such as this: ②

3.8. Follow the instructions in the user manual for special instruments (dental transmission instruments, ophthalmological instruments, instruments with inner lumina).

3.9. When using external accessories check that they are generally suitable for the intended purpose.

4. Routine inspections

4.1. Check the filters (e.g. in the handpiece and contra-angle collets) and sieves (coarse and fine sieve) regularly and ensure that they are clean or if necessary replaced.

4.2. Ensure that routine inspections are carried out in accordance with the user manual.
In particular the coarse and fine sieves should be checked for dirt and should be cleaned out.

5. Selecting a suitable program

5.1. Universal-Program: For normal to heavily soiled instruments

5.2. Intensive-Program: For instruments that are particularly heavily soiled

5.3. Quick-Program: For instruments that are not soiled or barely soiled, not to be used when processing hollow body instruments.

5.4. Ophthalmo-Program: Required for the processing of ophthalmological instruments. Demineralized water required!

5.5. If you are not satisfied with the outcome of the Universal-Program use the Intensive-Program instead.

6. Process agents

6.1. In order to avoid cleaning problems, only interdependent process agents may be used, which are configured by the technician when setting up the device. Information on the product configuration is provided in the record of installation and setting up or is visible on the notice applied directly to the canister.

7. General Guidelines

7.1. The rinse arms may only be removed for cleaning if the coarse and fine sieves are correctly positioned. This prevents dirt particles or securing components belonging to the rinse arms from falling into the pump sump.

7.2. Before taking out the coarse and fine sieves for cleaning, check whether any small components have fallen into the sieve. These must be removed before taking out the sieve, so that they do not enter the internal workings of the device.

7.3. Once it has been filled up with fresh regenerating salt, a short rinse program should be run in order to eliminate any salt residue from the chamber.

7.4. In the event of a longer break (> 2 weeks), the metering hoses must be vented in advance. Please follow the instructions in relation to this in the user manual.

Recommended procedure to optimise cleaning and protect instruments

If you have consulted an authorised technician, he/she should be able to provide you with guidelines on how to proceed or highlight any errors that he/she has identified in the aforementioned points. Please complete on separate pages where necessary.

Instructions given to operators on areas for improvement:

Technician

Practice