

DETECTO®



Cleaning And Disinfecting Your Medical Cart

CLEANING VERSUS DISINFECTING

It is important to understand that cleaning and disinfecting are not the same process.

Cleaning removes dirt, debris, and germs from surfaces. While cleaning helps reduce the number of germs present, *it does not necessarily kill them*. By removing contaminants, cleaning lowers the risk of spreading infections and prepares surfaces for effective disinfection.

Disinfecting uses chemical products to kill viruses, bacteria, and other harmful microorganisms that remain on surfaces after cleaning. Performing disinfection after cleaning further reduces the risk of transmitting infectious diseases.

To help maintain a safe and sanitary environment, regularly clean and disinfect your medical cart using disinfectant products that are appropriate for each surface being treated. Always follow the disinfectant manufacturer's instructions for proper use and contact time.

CAUTION! When cleaning and disinfecting the medical cart, wear disposable gloves that are compatible with the cleaning and disinfecting products being used. Additionally, wear any other personal protective equipment (PPE) recommended by the product manufacturer and follow all safety instructions provided with the cleaning and disinfecting products.

CLEANING YOUR MEDICAL CART

Regular cleaning of your medical cart removes dirt, debris, and germs from surfaces; *however, it does not kill germs*. Cleaning only reduces the number of germs present, which helps lower the risk of spreading infections.

- **Do not use** acetone, paint thinner, abrasive cleaners, or volatile solvents for products.
- **Do not use** bleach or bleach wipes. Bleach is a caustic chemical that can damage metal, ABS, and plastic cart components with repeated or prolonged exposure.
- **Do not use** steel wool, abrasive pads, wire brushes, or scrapers, as they can scratch and permanently damage surfaces.

For Hard Non-Porous Surfaces

For the hard non-porous surfaces, such as the cart body, drawer front, and ABS countertop, clean any visibly dirty surface with a solution of mild, non-abrasive detergent (or soap) and water (preferably soft or distilled, if available) and a lightly dampened cloth or plastic scouring pad before applying a disinfectant.

For Soft or Porous Surfaces

For the soft or porous surfaces, such as the straps on the Oxygen tank holder and defibrillator shelf, clean the surfaces with a lightly dampened cloth and a cleaner specifically designed for these materials or a solution of mild, non-abrasive detergent (or soap) and water (preferably soft or distilled, if available) before applying a disinfectant.

For Frequently Touched Surfaces

For the frequently touched surfaces, such as the push and drawer handles, remove visible dirt using a cloth lightly dampened with water (soft or distilled water if available) before applying a disinfectant.

For heavier soil, use a solution of mild non-abrasive detergent (or soap) and water (preferably soft or distilled, if available) and a lightly dampened cloth or a plastic scouring pad before applying a disinfectant.

CLEANING YOUR MEDICAL CART, CONT.

NOTE: If your cart is an Electronic Medical Cart, perform the steps outlined in the following section. If your cart is not an Electronic Medical Cart, skip this section and proceed directly to **DISINFECTING YOUR MEDICAL CART**.

For the Front Panel and Touchscreen Display on Electronic Carts Only

Cleaning the front panel and touchscreen display of an Electronic Medical Cart requires care to prevent damage to the touchscreen display's protective surface and internal electronic components. Follow the steps below to clean these components safely and effectively.

IMPORTANT! When cleaning or disinfecting, never spray liquids directly onto the front panel or touchscreen display or squeeze excess liquid from wipes or cleaning cloths onto these surfaces. The moisture can seep into the touchscreen display assembly and potentially damage the internal electronic components.

1. Power Down the Medical Cart.

Before cleaning, power down the medical cart and disconnect the AC power cord. If the medical cart is battery-powered, remove the batteries.

A powered-down display makes it easier to see dust, fingerprints, and smudges, and it helps prevent accidental screen inputs during cleaning. Powering down also reduces the risk of damage to the internal electronics if moisture enters the display housing.

2. Use the Proper Cleaning Cloth.

Use a clean microfiber cloth, such as those designed for eyeglasses or electronic displays. Microfiber cloths effectively remove dust, fingerprints, and oils without scratching the touchscreen display.

Do not use paper towels, tissues, shop towels, or abrasive cloths, as they can create fine scratches on the touchscreen display's surface.

3. Use the Appropriate Cleaning Solution.

For a lightly soiled front panel and touchscreen display, use a microfiber cloth lightly dampened with water (preferably soft or distilled water, if available).

For heavier soil or residue, use a microfiber cloth lightly dampened with a solution of mild, non-abrasive detergent (or soap) and water (preferably soft or distilled water, if available).

Do not use window cleaners (such as Windex®), acetone, ammonia-based cleaners, or abrasive cleaning products. These chemicals can permanently damage the touchscreen display's anti-glare and oleophobic (oil-resistant) coatings.

Do not use Bleach or Bleach Wipes. Bleach is a caustic chemical that can damage metal, ABS, and plastic cart components, as well as electronic components, with repeated or prolonged exposure. Using bleach or bleach wipes on the touchscreen can also leave chemical residues that gradually deteriorate the touchscreen's protective coatings, causing the display to become cloudy, hazy, or discolored over time.

In addition, many bleach wipes contain excessive moisture. During cleaning, pressure applied to the wipe can force moisture from the wipe, allowing it to collect around the edges of the touchscreen display bezel and then seep into the touchscreen display assembly, potentially damaging the internal electronic components.

CLEANING YOUR MEDICAL CART, CONT.

For the Front Panel and Touchscreen Display on Electronic Carts Only, Cont.

4. Do not apply excessive pressure.

When cleaning, applying excessive pressure to the touchscreen display can damage the LCD panel or touchscreen digitizer beneath the display surface.

Instead, gently wipe the touchscreen display and front panel using circular motions or a consistent side-to-side pattern.

DISINFECTING YOUR MEDICAL CART

When disinfecting your medical cart, chemical disinfectants are used to kill viruses, bacteria, and other harmful microorganisms on surfaces. Disinfecting after cleaning further reduces the risk of spreading infectious diseases by eliminating germs that may remain on the surface.

For Hard Non-Porous Surfaces

After cleaning, disinfect the hard non-porous surfaces, such as the cart body, drawer front, and ABS countertop, using either of the following:

- A. A disinfectant included on the EPA's **List L** (disinfectants for products to use against the Ebola Virus), **List N** (disinfectants for Coronavirus (COVID-19)), **List P** (disinfectant products for claims against *Candida auris*), **List Q** (disinfectants for Emerging Viral Pathogens), or **List S** (Registered Antimicrobial Products Effective Against Bloodborne Pathogens: Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C) that is suitable for these surfaces.

Follow the manufacturer's instructions for dilution (if applicable), application method, contact time, and any required precautions. Refer to the links below to access the EPA's website to search and view the lists.

[List L: Disinfectants for Use Against the Ebola Virus](#)

[List N: Disinfectants for Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

[List P: Disinfectant Products for Claims Against *Candida auris*](#)

[List Q: Disinfectants for Emerging Viral Pathogens \(EVPs\)](#)

[List S: \(Registered Antimicrobial products Effective Against Bloodborne Pathogens: Human Immunodeficiency Virus \(HIV\), Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C\)](#)

- B. Wipes containing Isopropanol (Isopropyl Alcohol) 70/30 IPA.

For Soft or Porous Surfaces

After cleaning, disinfect the soft or porous surfaces, such as the straps on the Oxygen tank holder and defibrillator shelf, using either of the following:

- A. A disinfectant included on the EPA's **List L**, **List N**, **List P**, **List Q**, or **List S** that is suitable for these surfaces. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for dilution (if applicable), application method, contact time, and any required precautions. Refer to the links in the **For Hard Non-Porous Surfaces** section to access the EPA lists.
- B. Wipes containing Isopropanol (Isopropyl Alcohol) 70/30 IPA.

DISINFECTING YOUR MEDICAL CART, CONT.

For Frequently Touched Surfaces

After cleaning, disinfect the frequently touched surfaces such as the push and drawer handles using either of the following:

- A. A disinfectant included on the EPA's **List L**, **List N**, **List P**, **List Q**, or **List S** that is suitable for these surfaces. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for dilution (if applicable), application method, contact time, and any required precautions. Refer to the links in the **For Hard Non-Porous Surfaces** section to access the EPA lists.
- B. Wipes containing Isopropanol (Isopropyl Alcohol) 70/30 IPA.

For the Front Panel and Touchscreen Display on Electronic Carts Only

After cleaning, disinfect the front panel surface and touchscreen display using either of the following:

- A. A disinfectant included on the EPA's **List L**, **List N**, **List P**, **List Q**, or **List S** that is suitable for the front panel and touchscreen display. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for dilution (if applicable), application method, contact time, and any required precautions. Refer to the links in the **For Hard Non-Porous Surfaces** section to access the EPA lists.
- B. Wipes containing Isopropanol (Isopropyl Alcohol) 70/30 IPA.



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