Fourth, identify stain identification. You want to know what the stain is composed of (rust, organic soil, blood, protein, etc.) and correct it from appearing again. If any imperfections are found, Stain identification is a process of using various methods to detect what the makeup of that stain is, and correct it from appearing again. If any soil or fluid is still visible, return the instrument for repeat decontamination.

Visual inspection is defined as the process of using the unaided eye, alone or in conjunction with various aids, as the sensing mechanism from which judgments may be made about the condition of a unit to be inspected. After cleaning, visually inspect all surfaces, rattles, box locks, holes, channels and lumens for complete removal of soil and fluids. If any soil or fluid is still visible, return the instrument for repeat decontamination.

If areas are difficult to inspect visually, check for blood by immersing or flushing the device in a 3% hydrogen peroxide solution. If soil is still present, re-clean the device.

A stain is a discoloration on an instrument’s surface. Rust is a red or orange coloration on the surface of surgical instruments resulting from oxidation. Note: Ensure that a stain observed is not dried blood. Use an endoscopic camera and endoscope if necessary to see the inner surface of the lumen. If soil remains, repeat the manual cleaning procedure, focusing on these areas.

A simple stain. If you discover pinning under the stain, it cannot be repaired. Use the eraser test to check for rust by rubbing an eraser over the stain/rust. If the spot is easily removed, it is a simple stain. If you discover pinning under the stain, it cannot be repaired.

Inspection using enhanced visualization tools such as lighted magnification and video borescopes might identify residues not observable by the unaided eye.

Inspection using magnification and additional illumination might identify residues more readily than the unaided eye. Tools such as video borescopes of an appropriate dimension (length and diameter) may be used to visually inspect the internal channels of some medical devices.

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