

Health Care Cleaning & Sanitation Procedures Module

Emergency Room ¹



Emergency room cleaning steps

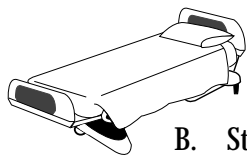
- A. Remove soiled linen from operating room
- B. Remove trash and debris
- C. Clean overhead lights
- D. Clean operating room table
- E. Clean operating room furnishings
- F. Clean operating room walls
- G. Clean operating room floors
- H. Arrange operating room furnishings
- I. Inspect for cleaning errors

You should clean every room using a pattern. Moving clockwise around the room from high places to low places is usually best to ensure that nothing is overlooked. "This also ensures that each area is not re-contaminated" and that leaning one area does not re-contaminate another area.



Put on rubber gloves to protect your hands from coming in direct contact with blood, body substances and contaminated linen and debris.

A. Step 1 - Remove soiled linen from operating room



- 1) Gather the soiled linen from the operating room and place in a sealed plastic bag for laundering.
- 2) Take plastic liners with soiled linen to the laundry hamper.

B. Step 2 - Remove trash and debris



- 1) Lift the used suction containers, place them in double red plastic liners, and tie the top of the outer red bag of waste.
- 2) Lift the bag and carry it out of the operating room to the pick-up point for this trash.

C. Step 3 - Clean overhead lights

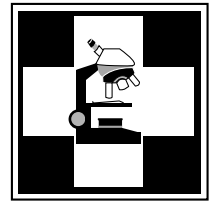


- 1) Get a ladder and set it up under the lights.
- 2) Place your pail of detergent-germicide on the ladder utility platform.
- 3) Clean the overhead lights, starting at the top part of the ceiling attachment. Clean the stem, all surfaces of the piping, and all surfaces of the light housing.
- 4) Rotate the lights, and clean the light fixture lenses. It is not unusual to find blood stains on the light fixture. Wipe all lens surfaces clean and then clean the second overhead light in the room.

D. Step 4 - Clean the emergency room table



- 1) Start by cleaning the warming pad with your cleaning cloth dipped and squeezed in the five-quart pail containing detergent-germicide solution.
- 2) Clean the table pads on all sides, being careful not to miss any stains.
- 3) Clean the emergency room table attachments, wiping all sides and ends clean.



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D. Step 4 - Clean the emergency room table (continued)

- 4) Store attachments back on the table in the proper location.
- 5) Wipe the metal surfaces under the pads, being careful to wipe all contours of the metal surfaces.
- 6) Notice that you can re-assemble the parts of the emergency room table as you clean them.
- 7) After the table has been wiped clean, replace the warming pad on the table.
- 8) Be sure to rinse and wring the cleaning cloth often in the detergent-germicide solution as you wipe the outer surfaces and base sections of the table. The emergency room table is one of the most critical items in cleaning the emergency room. Therefore, take the time to do a good job.

E. Step 5 - Clean emergency room furnishings

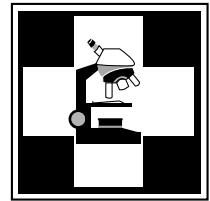


- 1) Clean the stainless steel tables and trays with your cloth dipped and wrung in the detergent-germicide solution.
- 2) Be careful to do a thorough job, including wiping the legs.
- 3) Clean the stainless steel back-up table and do not forget to clean the shelf.
- 4) Clean the MAYO stands, which contain the trays that surgeons use to lay out their operating instruments. Wipe both sides of the trays, as well as the entire unit.
- 5) Be sure to rinse and hand-wring your cleaning cloth often in the detergent-germicide solution.
- 6) Clean the suction unit, taking care to wipe all surfaces of the containers, the stand, and the pedestal. Do not forget to wipe clean the tubing attached to the suction units. All outer parts of this piece of equipment must be cleaned.
- 7) Clean all parts and surfaces of the waste liner stands, including the lower parts of the stand.
- 8) Change the solution in your five-quart pail if you see the liquid getting contaminated as you rinse your cleaning cloth.
- 9) When cleaning items like this portable stand, be sure to lift and clean under items stored there.
- 10) Clean the stools from top to bottom. Some of these are very close to the actual operations and can be sprayed with blood.
- 11) Clean all the I.V. poles and stands. Again, work from top to bottom.
- 12) Clean the chairs found in the emergency room. Wipe all surfaces clean, including the bottom chair supports.
- 13) Clean cabinets with your detergent-germicide.
- 14) Clean the blanketrol machine, including the tubing and all sides of the unit.
- 15) Clean the valley lab unit, starting at the top, moving down to the drawer pull, under objects left on the shelf, and then clean all sides of the unit. This completes the cleaning of the room furnishings.

F. Step 6 - Clean emergency room walls



- 1) Walls should be cleaned if there is visible contamination.
- 2) They should be cleaned on a regular schedule and not less than once a week.
- 3) Rinse and wring your mop head in a bucket of detergent-germicide solution.
- 4) Walls should be cleaned in an even pattern using four-foot strokes. It will take practice not to miss any areas.



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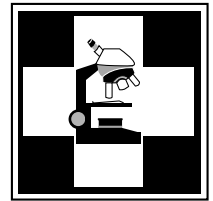
G. Step 7 - Clean emergency room floor



- 1) Start by clearing half of the emergency room of all furnishings.
- 2) Since all these items are mounted on casters, the job of moving things can be done in minutes. Just remember the original placement of all the items you have moved.
- 3) Dip the wet mop head into the detergent-germicide solution, and wring out the excess solution. Then, go to the far corner of the floor and begin mopping.
- 4) Mop in a pattern that will ensure that all parts of the floor are thoroughly mopped.
- 5) Dip and wring the mop head in the bucket often to keep your mop head as clean as possible.
- 6) Use a “figure eight” pattern when mopping a floor. This ensures better coverage of the mopping solution.
- 7) If you see blood stains, they can easily be removed by your mopping action. Once you have covered the entire area with your mopping solution, let the solution stand for ten minutes. This will ensure that the cleaning chemical will have time to kill all germs present on the floor.
- 8) The best method available to remove the floor cleaning solution is with a wet vacuum cleaner. These machines save time and eliminate the possibility of re-contamination. Use the wet-vac wand to pick up all of the solution on the floor, moving the wand forward to the wall, and then pulling back toward your feet to remove the solution from the floor.
- 9) If you do not have a wet-vacuum, use two freshly laundered mops and a two-bucket system: one bucket will contain the cleaning solution and the other bucket will contain clear rinse water. Use a separate mop for each bucket.
- 10) When you are through with that side of the floor, move all emergency room furnishings back on the cleaned area of the floor in preparation for clearing the other half of the floor.
- 11) Mop around furniture legs, if necessary, to clean the entire/whole floor.
- 12) Rinse and wring your mop head often and continue the mopping until the entire emergency room floor has been disinfected.
- 13) Again, you will use the wet-vac to pick up the solution off the floor.
- 14) When you are through, move your mop and bucket out the door.

H. Step 8 - Arrange emergency room furnishings

- 1) You should put emergency room equipment back in their “start positions”.
- 2) If you have any doubts as to where things should be placed, ask your supervisor who will instruct you on the proper arrangement of all furnishings.
- 3) Next, put a clean sheet on the emergency room table and place a second sheet over the center of the table. Check with your supervisor if you have any questions about your duties in the hospital.
- 4) Put a clear liner in the trash stand, along with a second bag to ensure double thickness plastic bags in each stand.
- 5) Do the same with the red liner in the trash stand, and again, place a second liner in the first to ensure the double bagging of all infectious waste.



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I. Step 9 - Inspect for cleaning errors

- 1) Always take the time to look around the emergency room you have just cleaned to make sure nothing was missed. Look at the overhead lights, the walls and everything else. If you see something that still needs to be cleaned, clean it before you leave.
- 2) When you do leave, you should have the confidence that you have provided a sanitary environment for the next procedure.
- 3) Take off your rubber gloves and throw them away in the assigned container.
- 4) Wash your hands in the prescribed manner.