

Infection  
Control  
Inspection  
Checklist



# 10 Actionable Tips To Ensure Your Healthcare Facility Is Fully Prepared



According to the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#), one out of every 20 hospitalized patients will contract a healthcare-associated infection. The good news is that you can control and prevent the spread of infection in your facility.



## Here's how to continually monitor your facility's equipment for surface integrity and a deep clean that prevents the spread of infection:

### 1. Look for and address rust buildup on equipment.

Metal interacts with its environment and, over time, corrosion takes place in the form of rust – and rust never sleeps. The rust particles can be transferred to other non-rusty instruments and spread even further.

Corrosion could lead to equipment malfunctioning, which may put your patients in danger. Proper cleaning and removal of rust from your medical equipment is critical. Your staff should know the right disinfectant to use, so it doesn't further exacerbate the problem of corrosion.

### 2. Check for tape residue buildup on equipment.

In [a report from the U.S. National Library of Medicine](#), 74% of specimens of adhesive tape collected after being in close contact with intravascular catheters for extended periods were colonized by pathogenic bacteria. These organisms can contribute to infections.

This is only one example, from one piece of medical equipment. Now, imagine all of the places you use adhesive tape. When cleaning and disinfecting medical equipment, the tape must be cleaned as well.

### 3. Clean the Velcro on your medical equipment.

Blood pressure cuffs are frequently used and shared in medical facilities. While they're listed as a non-critical item for disinfection, [research shows](#) they contribute to the spread of MRSA in hospitals.

Velcro on all equipment should be regularly rid of any buildup, washed and disinfected. Wipe Velcro with alcohol once daily (and each time after use by patients with MRSA infection) and wash at seven-day to one-month intervals.



#### 4. Evaluate medical bed mattress covers for damage and wear.

According to the [Medical Law Perspectives blog](#), "... over a two-year period, the FDA received 458 reports associated with medical bed mattress covers failing to prevent blood and body fluids from leaking into the mattress." This puts patients at risk for infection if they come in contact with these organisms.

Regularly check all sides and the bottom of mattresses and covers for visible signs of wear like tears, snags and stains. Use a [certified repair company](#) when repairing mattresses.

#### 5. Regularly clean your mobile medical equipment.

Anything moveable in your facility is being touched and dragged from place to place all day, every day, with many touch points. These include wheelchairs, workstations on wheels (WOWs), IV poles, glucometers and more.

To mitigate cross-contamination and keep pathogenic bacteria at bay, regular cleaning and disinfection is imperative.

#### 6. Cover and protect your medical supplies carts with a plastic.

While we live among dust, it's also an umbrella term used to describe a wide range of organic and inorganic particles, some of them harmful. Proper cleaning and covering of supply carts is essential to reducing the spread of contamination to your patients.

## 7. Ensure your medical trash bins are in the right condition for biohazardous materials.

Depending on the type of care you're providing, you could encounter fluids that require specific disposal: blood, spinal fluids, saliva, dialysis waste, amniotic fluids, lab cultures and specimen, and harsh medications such as chemotherapy drugs.

Make sure your medical trash bins are properly labeled and show no signs of wear, such as cracks or chips.

## 8. Support your OR cleaning team to ensure effective wipe downs and deep cleaning of all surfaces.

With each piece of medical equipment you use, several factors often must be considered to ensure proper cleaning that reduces the risk of infection spreading. The type of disinfectant and best practices for maximum disinfection, as well as how often they should be cleaned, should not be a guessing game for your employees.

Training and procedural guidance for rhythmic, deep cleaning of your medical equipment is critical to infection control.

## 9. Maintain records and documentation to show you are compliant with the Joint Commission.

Do you have a reporting system? If not, how do you prove that your equipment is regularly cleaned and disinfected? The Joint Commission looks for documentation to validate your cleaning processes and procedures. Maintaining records is vital to establish consistency and uniformity.

## 10. Make sure patients and employees see your equipment as pristine and clean.

Sight alone can say a lot about the perceptions of cleanliness in your facility. If employees or patients don't view your equipment as being clean, satisfaction rates may decrease. Regardless of data and science, mere perception is powerful enough to push patients away and produce unhappy employees.

If patient satisfaction scores are low or employee morale could be better, check the environment around your OR and exam rooms. If the equipment is dirty or worn out, that's a sign it's time to do a deep clean and bring the shine back to your facility.

Often, healthcare facilities are unsure about who is truly accountable for infection control practices, policies and procedures. In such a busy environment, it can seem like no one has the time, the responsibility slips through the cracks or you lack the processes to bridge the gap with an equipment management program.

That's why it's a good idea to partner with a healthcare equipment management company that takes care of equipment cleaning, disinfecting, minor repairs, results testing and reporting. The right partner takes the burden of deep cleaning OR equipment off your hands completely.

**Ready to protect your patients with rhythmic, deep cleaning of your medical equipment?**

**SCHEDULE A CONSULTATION**



EquipSystems works with healthcare facilities to maintain a constant state of compliance readiness through regularly scheduled cleaning, disinfection, minor repairs and reporting. We also offer full-time, on-site employees who are dedicated to equipment maintenance. For more information on EquipSystems, visit [www.equipsystems.com](http://www.equipsystems.com).

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