

# Keeping covers clean:



## REMOVE

Remove any spillage or debris from the surface before cleaning the Dartex® product. Decontamination/ Sterilization must be applied **only** on cleaned surfaces and **thoroughly rinsed** afterwards.



## WIPE

Wipe down the cover using Trust-approved cleaning agents (strength-appropriate). **ALWAYS** use disinfectants as per the manufacturer's instructions to avoid breaches of The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA).



## RINSE

Rinse the cover with clean water after cleaning or disinfecting to prevent build-up of residual cleaning chemicals, which may result in:

- compromising cover biocompatibility
- cleaning with a higher concentration than recommended; potentially damaging the cover
- formation of abrasive crystals that can abrade the product surface
- susceptibility to damage from abrasion or strikethrough.



## DRY

Products should be thoroughly dried before returning to use or being placed in storage. This is because the cleaning and rinsing process swells the polyurethane coating, making it more susceptible to physical damage.



## ALWAYS

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when using chemical cleaning agents. Still not sure? Contact [dartexsales@trelleborg.com](mailto:dartexsales@trelleborg.com) for advice.

### Further cleaning considerations:

Mattress covers should be regularly cleaned, "as part of a routine and following patient use. Rinsed thoroughly and dry. The mattress should be enclosed in a waterproof cover and routinely inspected for damage".

Cleaning may be effected either by mechanical means at 71 °C to 95 °C dependent upon Dartex® product type, or by using a manual wiping process.

A neutral detergent is suitable for this task.\*

Alcohol, if allowed to 'pool', may result in temporary swelling of the cover, making it more prone to mechanical damage.

### References:

- CDC Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare facilities (2008) p.36  
BHTA 'Protect, Rinse and Dry' guidance on the care, cleaning and inspection of healthcare mattresses (2016) <http://bhta.com/bhta-campaigns>  
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). Sterilization, disinfection and cleaning of medical equipment: (guidance on decontamination from the Microbiology Advisory Committee MAC manual):  
Part 1 Principles. London: MHRA; 2010. (2)  
Part 2 Protocols. London: MHRA; 2005 p.20  
Part 3 Procedures. London: MHRA; 2006 p.33-37

NOTE: Mattress covers are classified as "non-critical" under the CDC guidelines, as they are not placed in vivo or in prolonged contact with non-intact skin or mucous membranes.

\*The full method for manual cleaning - non-immersion - can be found in the MHRA Microbiology Advisory Committee (MAC) Manual (2006) part 2 p20



# Cleaning Dartex® Medical Surfaces

Establishing a good cleaning regime is essential to prolonging the life of your Dartex® medical support surface



While many of the vast number of cleaning and disinfection systems on the market are compatible with Dartex® fabrics, some are not. This is a quick guide to keeping covers clean.

[www.dartexcoatings.com](http://www.dartexcoatings.com)  
[www.trelleborg.com/engineered-coated-fabrics](http://www.trelleborg.com/engineered-coated-fabrics)

# Decontamination Procedures for Dartex® Support Surfaces

Advice based on cleaning and disinfecting methods discussed in the CDC Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare facilities, (2008), and in the MHRA Microbiology Advisory Committee (MAC) Manual (2010). This guide is not intended to replace information given by the supplier and does not endorse specific cleaning products.

For further advice, contact the supplier of your medical device.

METHOD	% ACTIVE	pH RANGE SUITABLE FOR DISINFECTION	DWELL TIME	POST APPLICATION	RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USE ON DARTEX® FABRICS
<b>Chlorine and compounds</b>	1,000–10,000 ppm	7–9	<b>&lt;10 mins</b> Strength and microbial target dependent	Rinse and dry	<b>Acceptable and recommended</b> 1000ppm is appropriate for day to day cleaning. Up to 10,000ppm may be used to decontaminate. Must be rinsed with clean water and towel dried (avoid harsh abrasion).
<b>Alcohol</b>	70 typical	—	<b>10 mins</b> (max)	Rinse and dry	<b>Acceptable for use and recommended subject to precautions</b> Coating may swell and be prone to damage. Care must be taken until fully dry (~1hr).
<b>Glutaraldehyde</b>	2	7.5–8.5	Temperature dependent	Rinse and dry	<b>Acceptable for use</b>
<b>Steam Sterilization</b>	n/a	Neutral	<b>3 mins–134 °C/273 °F</b> <b>10 mins–126 °C/258 °F</b> <b>15 mins–121 °C/249 °F</b> <b>30 mins–115 °C/239 °F</b>	Dry and return to use/store	<b>Acceptable for use</b> High temperatures and long dwell times can cause the fabrics to shrink. Verify compatibility with entire mattress system prior to use.
<b>Ethylene Oxide</b>	3	—	<b>&gt;30 mins</b> Temperature dependent	Rinse thoroughly and dry before use	<b>Acceptable for sterilization only</b> Ensure that appropriate sterilization validation has been completed. Requires cleaning afterwards.
<b>Hydrogen peroxide</b>	3–25%	5–9	<b>&lt;5 mins</b>	Rinse well and dry	<b>Acceptable for use</b> Must be fully rinsed. Highly acidic or alkaline peroxides should be avoided as they will damage the coating.
<b>Quaternary Ammonium Compounds</b>	3–15%	7–10	Varies Refer to label guidance	Rinse and dry	<b>Acceptable for use and recommended subject to precautions</b> Some Quaternary Ammonium Compounds are too alkaline. Always check the label first. Quaternary solutions having a pH >10 are not recommended. DO NOT USE QUATs (WIPES) containing sodium hydroxide (NaOH).
<b>Peracetic acid</b>	0.2–0.35	—	<b>&lt;20 mins</b>	Rinse and dry	<b>Acceptable but not recommended</b> Acidic pH will damage the cover
<b>Iodophors</b>	75–100 ppm	Acidic	<b>&lt;20 mins</b>	If exposed, rinse and dry	<b>Not recommended</b> Staining and acidic species which reduce product lifetime.
<b>Phenolics</b>	2–12%	—	<b>10 mins</b>	Inspect carefully as high risk of irreversible damage	<b>Not suitable for use</b> Irreversible swelling of coating.
<b>Dry heat</b>	n/a	Neutral	<b>10 mins–126 °C/258 °F</b> <b>15 mins–121 °C/ 249 °F</b> <b>30 mins–115 °C/239 °F</b>	Inspect carefully as high risk of irreversible damage	<b>Not suitable for use</b> Softens coating to point of failure.

