

# MAKE MINE A SINGLE

INSTRUMENT PROTECTION EXPERT

 BEYOND  
CLEAN



Craig Ford | Founder & President SterileBits

*Beyond Clean Instrument Protection Expert:*

## MAKE MINE A SINGLE

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Do you read your packaging IFUs? . . . you should. Do you double peel pack? . . . you probably shouldn't. Most surveyors will cite you for doing it if your peel pack doesn't support it.

When double packing using paper-plastic pouches, one must be mindful of the risks. Proper sizing and application of pouches must allow for air removal, steam penetration, and drying. Improperly sized double-pouching, folds within pouches, plastic facing paper, are all factors that may prevent the sterilant from reaching the surface of anything with which the plastic side is in physical contact.

Both AAMI and AORN state that if a hospital chooses to double peel pouch, they must be sure the manufacturer has validated their pouches for double pouching. Many pouches have not been validated for double pouching. Using light weight, poor quality pouches to obtain perceived savings could get you into trouble as well. Even with double pouching, AAMI and AORN recommend the use of tip protectors.

So why do it? Usually it's because the scrub team asserts they need to be able to deliver an instrument to the field that would otherwise be hard to deliver or retrieve from a single pouch. Some ORs want certain items double pouched for sterile presentation. Others claim it is necessary to prevent tears and punctures.

We submit that using instrument protectors (such as sterilization cards) will do a better job of promoting sterilization, will protect the sterile barrier during transport and storage, and are easier to pass off to the sterile field.

By adding structure to the pack, you prevent movement of the instrument which protects the pouch seals, you prevent crushing and creasing when handling, you hold hinged instruments open, and you create an easier aseptic presentation.

With the value offered by instrument protectors/sterilization cards, everyone should be saying . . . **MAKE MINE A SINGLE!**

Have more instrument protection questions? Contact Craig at: [craig.ford@sterilebits.com](mailto:craig.ford@sterilebits.com)

*Beyond Clean Instrument Protection Expert Biography:*

**CRAIG FORD**

**FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT | STERILEBITS**



Craig Ford is the Founder and President of SterileBits, Inc., a boutique company specializing in the design and manufacture of sterility assurance consumables and products used in surgery. SterileBits utilizes a virtual business model that offers a more cost-effective approach to product development. In order to eliminate waste, improve quality, and reduce costs, SterileBits created a team of clinicians, engineers, medical device packaging, manufacturing and operations specialists that operate remotely.

Combining the core competencies and vast experience of its team, with outsourced ISO certified and FDA registered suppliers, SterileBits can deliver high quality products and much needed savings to the healthcare supply chain.

Having stood in surgery for 20 years as a sales rep and distributor of spinal implants, Craig believes in listening to clinicians and technicians to make healthcare better. “New products don’t always have to be disruptive or come from big companies. Sometimes a small change to an old standard is the best way to go.” SterileBits feels this consultative approach to product development coupled with a virtual business model is the future. Their goal is to reduce costs and create lasting value for both the providers and patients.

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