ASEPTIC PRESENTATION
PROTECTING THE STERILE BARRIER OF
PEEL PACKS

INSTRUMENT PROTECTION EXPERT

BEYOND CLEAN

Craig Ford | Founder & President SterileBits

Beyond Clean Instrument Protection Expert:

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A sterile barrier system, or peel pack, is used to maintain the sterility of, and present a product to the sterile field in an aseptic manner. The pack must maintain its full integrity throughout the continuum to ensure sterility.

Factors that adversely affect sterile barrier integrity are crushing, dropping, stacking, compression, tears, holes, ruptures of seals, etc.

Even though we may see a sterilization indicator within a pouch does not mean the pack is sterile. It means that pack was processed by a method that met conditions sufficient enough to achieve microbial inactivation. However, the path the pack takes after sterilization determines whether or not that instrument is fit to use.

Repetitive handling is frequently cited as causing a negative impact on the sterile barrier. Creases, folds, and pinholes may be created and render the instrument unsterile. What can your facility do to minimize the effects of handling on the sterile barrier?

1. Use a sterilization card within the pouch to secure the instrument and prevent it from moving around. Instruments placed loosely in a pouch are more difficult to transport, store, handle, or grab without crushing. Also, moving instruments within a pouch has a tendency to place stress on the sides of the pack, risking seal integrity.

2. Backer cards are easier to retrieve from the pack during transfer of the instrument to the sterile field. Retrieval of loose instruments can compromise the sterility of the scrub person. Dumping of product onto the field may result in dropping of the instrument onto the floor or contamination of the sterile field. Give your Surgical Technologist something to grab.

Sterilization cards act like a semi-rigid container within a plastic pouch, holding things together and preventing movement, so that the pack may be presented “aseptically” to the O.R.

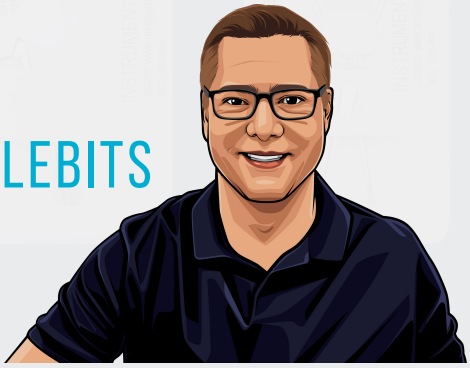
Have more instrument protection questions? Contact Craig at: craig.ford@sterilebits.com

Beyond Clean Instrument Protection Expert Biography:

CRAIG FORD

FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT | STERILEBITS

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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