

# BEST PRACTICES REGARDING INSTRUMENT PROTECTORS

INSTRUMENT PROTECTION EXPERT

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Craig Ford | Founder & President SterileBits

*Beyond Clean Instrument Protection Expert:*

## BEST PRACTICES REGARDING INSTRUMENT PROTECTORS

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AAMI's ST79:2017 is full of standards and practices geared toward helping users make good decisions regarding the processing of a medical device or system. But there isn't much mentioned about instrument protectors or products used inside a sterile barrier.

With the ultimate goal of protecting the instrument and the sterile barrier, our team recommends the following short list of Best Practices to help your team achieve its performance goals:

1. Choose an instrument protector that prevents strike through yet allows for maximum exposure of the sterilant with the instrument being sterilized. The instrument should not come into contact with the impervious plastic laminate used in paper-plastic pouches. This contact may prevent the sterilant from reaching the instrument.
2. The use of paper-plastic pouches with heavy metal instruments could result in problems with sterility maintenance. Use instrument protectors that offer added structure/strength to accommodate the instrument being held. This minimizes movement within the pouch and makes the pack easier to handle and transport without creasing or crushing.
3. Avoid using tip protectors that prevent sterilant contact with the surface of an instrument (rubber/plastic) or create another pseudo layer that may prohibit penetration of the sterilant (sleeve style). This may result in inadequate sterilant contact, air removal and drying.
4. Choose an instrument protector that holds hinged instruments completely open and stays open during and after sterilization.

The ultimate goal is to get an instrument sterilized and to prevent its contamination until it reaches the sterile field.

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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