

# Specialty Medical Monthly

## Your Surgical Repair Specialists!

SMS is a full service, surgical and endoscopy repair company based in Kansas City, Missouri. SMS takes pride in its ability to communicate with its customers, provide quality service, rapid turnaround, all at highly competitive prices.

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Visit us on the web at  
[www.spmedsys.com](http://www.spmedsys.com)

## How to Save Money Through Proper Instrument Care

Impact your bottom line, increase patient safety and improve surgeon satisfaction.

Written by Derek Lashua

*The following are helpful tips on caring for your surgical instruments. These excerpts from Managing Infection Control will provide basic ways to help extend the life of your instruments through proper cleaning, care and handling.*

### Stain Troubleshooting Guide

Brown/Orange Stains - Most brown/orange stains are not rust. This stain color is the result of high pH surface deposits caused by any of the following: chlorhexidine, improper soaps and detergents, baked-on blood, soaking in saline.

Dark Brown/Black Stains - Low pH (less than 6) acid stain. May be caused by improper detergents and soaps and/or dried-on blood.

Bluish-Black Stains - Reverse plating may occur when two different types of metals are ultrasonically processed together. For example, stainless steel instruments processed with chrome instruments may cause a stain color reaction. Exposure to saline, blood or potassium chloride will cause this bluish-black stain to occur.

Multi-Color Stains - Excessive heat caused by a localized "hot spot" in the autoclave.

Light and Dark Spots - Water spots from allowing instruments to air dry. With slow evaporation, minerals from water are left on the instrument's surface.

Black Stains - Possible exposure to ammonia.

### Manual Washing (if needed)

Use instrument cleaning brushes. Use proper cleaning solutions with a neutral pH. Determine the cause(s) of instrument staining problems.

### Ultrasonic Cleaning

Ultrasonic cleaning is 16 times more effective than manual washing alone. Ultrasonic cleaning is the single best practice that you can employ to extend the life of your instruments.

### Rinsing and Drying

Always rinse to remove soap residue and debris. Always dry to prevent water spots and staining.

### Lubrication

Always lubricate hinged instruments after cleaning. Only use water-based, neutral pH lubricants.

### Sterilization

Always sterilize with ratchets in the open position. Employ perforated instrument trays or pans.

# Service Spotlight

Specialty Medical Systems offers a wide array of services for your surgical instrumentation needs. SMS' Kansas City surgical instrument repair lab offers its customers a state-of-the-art comprehensive repair and maintenance service that complements our On-Site maintenance visits. SMS currently offers On-Site instrument repair in Iowa, South Dakota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri, Illinois, Arkansas and Kentucky.

## Listed below is a sampling of the services we can provide:

- Color Coding
- Container and Container Lid Repair
- Custom Parts Manufacturing
- Dental Pieces
- Diamond Dusting
- Diamond Knife Repair
- Ebonizing
- Endoscopic Forceps Repair
- Instrument Container Labeling
- Instrument Modification
- Insulation Testing and Replacement
- Instrument Tray Repair
- Laparoscopic Instrument Repair/Rebuilds
- Micro Instrument Repair
- Microscopic Inspections
- Pin Replacement
- Powder Coating
- Refurbishing
- Repair/Exchange Programs
- Screw Replacement
- Sharpening
- Soldering
- Spring Replacement
- Surgical Instrumentation Repairs
- TC Insert Replacement
- Laser Etching
- Weekend "STAT" Service



**Congratulations to this month's  
Drawing Winner!!**

**Madeena Dorgan  
St. Mary's Surgical Hospital**

**Madeena won a \$30 gift card to the  
restaurant of her choice. Be sure to respond  
to this newsletter to enter your name  
into next month's drawing!!**

