

# FAQs for ProWash™ Multi-Purpose Instrument Detergent and Cart Wash



## What is ProWash?

It is a neutral pH detergent containing surfactants, metal conditioning agents, corrosion inhibitors and chelating agents. It is intended for

the cleaning step of instrument processing in manual and automated washer systems. Clinical and lab testing demonstrates that ProWash is compatible with stainless steel, titanium, copper, brass, aluminum and anodized aluminum, rubber and plastic items. Many manufacturers now recommend neutral pH detergents for cleaning. Always check device and instrument manufacturer's instructions for use prior to selecting any cleaning agent.

## Why is it important for detergents to include chelating agents?

They improve cleaning action by binding calcium and other minerals from "hard water" during the cleaning process. This improves surfactant cleaning action and promotes free-rinsing to reduce spotting. Chelating agents add cost and bulk to detergent formulations. Some solid or economy detergent products may be deficient in this key component.

## How does water quality affect selection and dosing of detergents?

The water used for manual and automated instrument processing has a major effect on the cleaning process. Sterile processing departments and surgery centers should obtain and use AAMI ST79, a standard reference for instrument processing and sterilization. AAMI TIR 34:2007 is a technical document annex that outlines water quality recommendations for cleaning and rinsing. Briefly, calcium and other mineral components of "hard water" bind with detergent surfactants thus reducing their soil removal properties. Areas with measurable hard water (generally over 200 ppm) may need to increase dosing of detergents and/or use rinse agents. Treated water (RO, DI or softened) should at a minimum be used for the final rinse.

## Is ProWash safe to use in automated instrument cleaning equipment?

Yes, ProWash is non-foaming and formulated to support low and high impingement (spray pressure) washers, cart washers and ultrasonic instrument cleaning devices.

## Why is ProWash a good choice for manual cleaning of eye instruments and other delicate items?

ProWash is non-foaming for easy visualization of submerged items in pans and sinks. The neutral pH formula is compatible with many delicate metals and items. ProWash provides effective cleaning without enzymes which some ASORN consultants feel is a better choice for eye instruments to avoid risk of TASS - Toxic Anterior Segment Syndrome. The most common cause of TASS is residual chemicals and microfibers therefore careful thorough rinsing is essential for all types of cleaning chemistry.

# Technical Information

## Making Detergent Selections 101

How to decide on the correct type of detergent for each application in a sterile processing department



## Deciphering Detergents and pH

Instrument manufacturers often specify neutral pH detergent in their instructions for use. Because neutral pH detergents may not have the raw cleaning power of high pH alkaline detergent, Certol has developed a special formula to boost cleaning power in neutral pH ProWash™ while protecting delicate metals.

Chemical engineering ensures that all the products in Certol's detergent line are designed for cost efficient dilution and high performance in the most challenging hard water conditions.

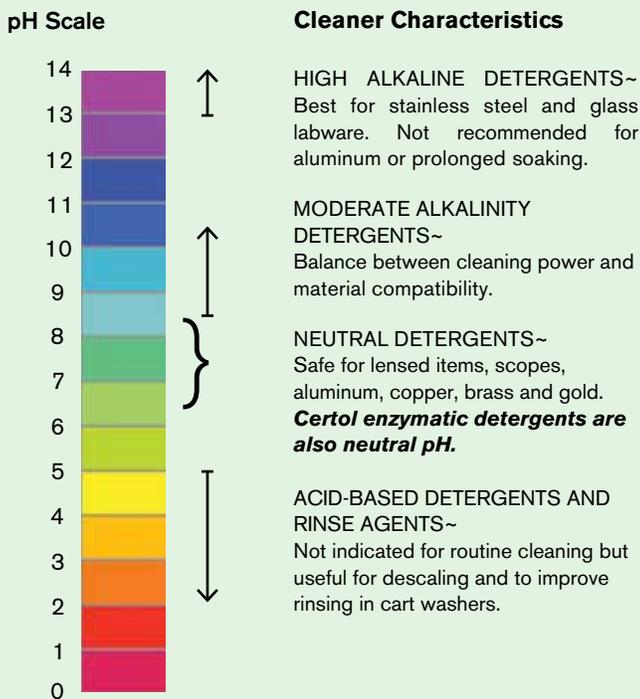
**Moderate alkaline detergents** like ProClense™ plus are economical and offer the best cleaning value for standard loads in automated equipment.

**Neutral detergents** like ProWash™ offer the greatest range of safe application for a wide variety of materials and devices. Many instrument and device manufacturers now specify neutral pH detergents be used on their instruments, trays and other equipment. A neutral pH detergent without enzymes may be preferable for some applications on eye instrumentation to reduce the risk of Toxic Anterior Segment Syndrome (TASS).

**High alkaline detergents** are 13 pH or higher and are not usually recommended for soft metals, anodized or regular aluminum. This category of product does offer economical and powerful cleaning action against oils, fats and other sticky soils as long as the instrumentation can tolerate this type of chemistry.

**Enzymatic detergents** are ideal for manual, pre-soak, ultrasonic and scope cleaning applications where an extended contact time of at least two to five minutes is available to allow the organic enzymes to work. This type of product is more costly but well worth it for cleaning neuro, orthopedic, gastrointestinal and other tough soils. See our FAQs for ProEZ foam™, ProEZ 1™, ProEZ 2™ and ProEZ AW Quad™ for more details on how enzymatic detergents work. (Certol ProEZ AW Quad™ is an exceptional enzymatic detergent with unusually broad applications not found in other enzymatic brands. It is effective in all applications including manual, scopes, ultrasonics and washers.)

### Chemical pH values and best application:



**ProWash™**  
pH Value 8.5  
This versatile non-foaming detergent may be used in manual, automated washer and cart washer applications.

**ProClense™ plus**  
pH Value 9.8  
Another versatile non-foaming detergent that offers alkaline cleaning power at a level safe for most types of materials used in medical instrumentation.

**ProClense™**  
pH Value 12.0  
This foamy alkaline detergent is excellent for greasy soils on standard stainless steel or glass labware in manual sink applications.



For more information about ProWash,  
please call: 877.718.6868 or, visit: [www.pure-processing.com](http://www.pure-processing.com)