

HOTDOG® PATIENT WARMING SYSTEM

CLEANING GUIDELINES



HotDog Patient Warming blankets and mattresses are non-sterile electric warming devices for use in the operating room and in pre- and post- operative areas in healthcare facilities. Clean and disinfect the Warming Blankets and Mattresses between patient uses if they appear visibly soiled. If the Warming Blanket or Mattress is not visibly soiled, disinfection at the end of the operating day is recommended.

Caution

Do not immerse blankets in water.

Do not use high-level disinfectants (e.g. glutaraldehyde, peracetic acid) to clean the blankets. The CDC (USA) recommends against the use of high level disinfectants for cleaning environmental surfaces that may contact the patient since the chemicals are highly toxic.

Do not spray cleaning solutions into the electrical connector.

Do not use hydrogen peroxide-based cleaning solutions as the vapors can adversely affect the internal heater.

Do not place the warming products in an autoclave, sterilizer, automatic washer-disinfector, or any other high-temperature system as this may damage the product.

Recommended cleaners

Most low- to intermediate-level cleaners used in healthcare facilities may be used to clean HotDog warming blankets and mattresses. In general, alcohol-based disinfectants are easiest to use since they are fast-acting and can be sprayed or wiped on the blanket. Other cleaners that are compatible with the outer surfaces of the blanket include sodium hypochlorite (diluted bleach), phenolic germicidal detergent, and quaternary ammonium detergent.

Iodophor (iodine containing) cleaners may cause discoloration in the blanket surface and are therefore NOT recommended for routine cleaning.

Hydrogen peroxide-based cleaning solutions are NOT recommended because the vapors degrade the conductive fabric heaters.

Cleaning Steps

The blankets should be cleaned following protocols for non-critical medical devices that may contact intact skin. Examples of similar devices are blood pressure cuffs, exam table covers, operating room table pads and surgical supports. The cleaning steps below are general recommendations and are not meant to replace hospital-specific cleaning protocols.

1. If provided, place the rubber cap into the electrical connector on the blanket. If no cap exists, avoid getting cleaning fluids into the electrical connector.
2. If visible body fluids or soiling are present, these must be removed before applying a disinfectant. Scrub the affected areas using detergent and a soft brush or sponge to remove any organic matter. Wipe the surface of the blanket with water using a dampened cloth. Do not immerse blanket in liquids.
3. Apply a low- or intermediate-level of disinfectant to the entire blanket by spraying or wiping. Follow the disinfectant manufacturer's application instructions to ensure adequate disinfection.
4. Following cleaning, ensure that blanket is dry before using again.