



# Cleaning Reusable Ear Cleaning Equipment

## IPAC Program Guidelines

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## Purpose

This guideline addresses the reprocessing requirements for instruments and devices used in the cleaning of ears.

For more information on infection prevention and control, contact CPISA's IPAC program:

**Email:** [ipac@cpsa.ab.ca](mailto:ipac@cpsa.ab.ca)

**Phone:** 780-969-5004

## General

1. Ear cleaning equipment should be designed and intended for use on humans.
2. Consider reprocessing requirements prior to purchasing ear cleaning equipment.
3. Single-use, disposable systems and components should be discarded after each use.
4. Heat tolerant reusable ear cleaning equipment with validated reprocessing instructions (e.g. metal ear syringe) should be cleaned and steam sterilized in accordance with manufacturer's instructions between each use.

For devices that do not have adequate, validated instructions for reprocessing, the following procedures should be followed. Devices in this category include, but are not limited to:

- Elephant Earwash System
- Rhino Earwash System
- Otoclear Spray Wash Kit



## Reprocessing instructions

1. Following an ear cleaning procedure, **dispose of single-use tip** and empty contents of the container.
2. Clean reusable components (e.g. spray pump, tubing, container) with an instrument-grade detergent diluted to the manufacturer's recommended concentration. Manual cleaning should be performed below the surface of the water to minimize splashing

and aerosolization.

3. Clean the spray pump and attached tubing by thoroughly flushing (pumping) the detergent solution through the system (sprayer).
4. Thoroughly rinse the reusable components using fresh tap water. Rinsing should be performed below the surface of the water to minimize splashing and aerosolization.
5. Rinse the spray pump and attached tubing by thoroughly flushing (pumping) fresh tap water through the system (sprayer). Rinse until all detergent solution has been removed.
6. Thoroughly dry the entire system.
7. Clean and disinfect the exterior of the system with a low or intermediate level disinfectant following manufacturer's instructions.
8. Visually inspect the system for cleanliness and functionality. Discard equipment that is damaged and/or can no longer be cleaned effectively.
9. Store the equipment in a clean, dry, protected area. Never store with water remaining in the reservoir.
10. Prior to each use, fit nozzle with a new, single-use tip.