

Making Detergent Selections 101

How do we decide on the correct type of detergent for each application in our 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.

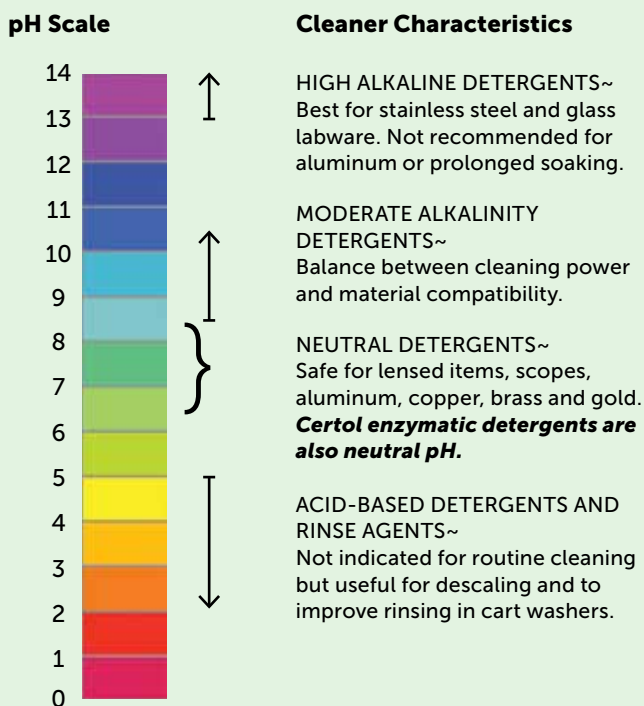
Moderate alkaline detergents like ProClense™ plus are economical and offer the best cleaning value for standard loads in automated equipment.

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.