OSKA®

Cleaning and aftercare guidelines

V-Guard Technology

OSKA V-Guard technology covers are durable but, as medical devices, they need treating with great care. The surface is vapour permeable so it is waterproof, but breathable to reduce sweating of patient. This outer barrier must not be penetrated. Even the smallest breach of this barrier will cause fluid to penetrate the mattress.

There are specific cleaning and care instructions that need to be strictly adhered to prolong the life of the product.

1. General directives

1.1 Attention must be given to the characteristics of any other materials that may be combined with the coated fabrics in the final product (e.g. dimensional stability, colour fastness, washing instructions).

1.2 Some surface wrinkling may result from cleaning procedures. This should have no adverse effect on the fabric's properties.

1.3 Abrasive cleaning agents should NOT be used.

1.4 In addition, due to the range of cleaning chemicals and conditions being used, customers should ascertain that any fabric performs as expected, without any adverse effect.

1.5 If customers have their own particular cleaning methods that must be used and that are not covered in this article, they should consult OSKA for further direction and guidance.

2. Washing and Disinfection

2.1 The polyurethane coatings need to be treated with care when cleaning the surface. Many industrial cleaning agents are extremely harsh on the coating and can cause it to break down. Please find attached a list of cleaning products that have been tested and approved for use on PU coated fabrics. If your particular cleaning solution does not appear on the list, please contact us as we can test to any method you require and report our findings and recommendations.

2.2 For superficial dirt use a disposable wipe and a warm solution of neutral detergent. Do not use abrasive cleaners.

2.3 Disinfect in situ using 1% sodium hypochlorite solution (10,000ppm available chlorine). It is essential that care is taken to ensure that the residues of the chemical used for localised cleaning is removed completely by wiping the area off with a sponge dipped in clean water.

2.4 Polyurethane coated fabrics are hydrophilic and can absorb liquids for short period causing temporary change to the polyurethane characteristics. The mattress cover swells temporarily and is more vulnerable to physical damage for a period until it is completely dry, by which time it will revert to its previous state.

2.5 The fabrics are able to be washed in warm soap water at up to 95°C.

2.6 The fabrics are dry-cleanable with all dry cleaning fluids except trichloroethylene.

2.7 All cleaning agents and disinfectants must be thoroughly rinsed off with water and the item dried until it is completely dry before re use or storage.

3. Drying

3.1 Spin and tumble dry on a low setting (not more than 130°C The fabric surface may wrinkle but this will not impede function). The operator ensures it is removed as soon as all moisture is removed. The fabric must not be left sitting on the heated bowl of the drier when drying is complete.

3.2 Do not mangle.

3.3 Do not iron.

4. Storage

4.1 Store in a cool dry area.

4.2 Avoid excessive pressure and always thoroughly dry fabric before re-use or storage. Do not fold away wet or store in damp conditions.

5. Cleaning Products

Cleaning/disinfectant products that can be used:
This list is by no means exhaustive and the appropriate concentrations should be strictly followed and not exceeded.

- Carbol oil
- Chloramine
- Distilled water
- Rivascop
- Chlorhexidine
- Hexanios G+R
- Ecopine
- Actimax
- Virkon (Dupont)

Cleaning products that cannot be used:

- Diethyl-ether
- Hibitane 0,5 % red in 60 % isopropanol
- Hibitane 0,5 % neutral in 60 % isopropanol
- Steranios 2 %
- Surfanios

The harmful effects of various chemicals can be categorised into 3 basic groups:

Group 1: Rapid attack and breakdown

- Dimethyl formamide (DMF) and tetrahydrofuran (THF):- both lead to dissolution of the coating.
- Concentrated inorganic acids, i.e. Sulphuric, phosphoric, etc.
- Concentrated alkalis, i.e. caustic soda.
- Phenol / Cresol based chemicals.
- With the exception of phenolic based chemicals, e.g. "Clearsol", which is used for disinfection, the remainder of the above should not normally be encountered.

Group 2: Temporary swelling with possible change in surface appearance

- Ketones, i.e. acetone, MEK etc.
- Organic acids (acetic, formic, etc.)
- Chlorinated hydrocarbons ("trike" /dry cleaning fluid)
- Aromatic Hydrocarbons (toluene, benzene, etc.)
- Alcohols (methylated spirits, ethanol, methanol etc.)
- Hydrocarbons (paraffin, petrol, oil etc.)
- Esters (amyul acetate, ethyl acetate, etc.)
- Alcohol/spirit based chemicals are widely used as cleaners and antiseptics.

Group 3: No short term effect but avoid long term contact

- Ammonia
- Bleach (Sodium hypochlorite, hydrogen peroxide)
- Aqueous alkalis, i.e. strong detergents.
- Waxes/Greases (petroleum jelly, Vaseline etc.)
- Water based chemicals (Iodine based "Betadine" "Hibiscus", etc.
- Use of Peracetic Acid: if using Peracetic Acid for routine cleaning of PU-coated textiles, recommendation is to use ≤500ppm on the coated surface only. The contact time should be 5 minutes or less and wipe the surface with clean water afterwards to remove any residual cleaning solution to reduce the risk of PU damage. Some discolouration may occur after repeated use, but this should not affect the functionality of the cover.

The categories above are intended as guidelines only. The actual concentration and period of contact with the various chemicals will determine the exact effect.

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