

Spaulding's Classification of Equipment & Medical Devices			
	Non-Critical	Semi-Critical	Critical
Definition	Items that do not touch the client or touch only intact skin, but no mucous membranes	Items that come into contact with non-intact skin or intact mucous membranes, but do not penetrate body surfaces	Items penetrating body tissues allowing for direct contact with the bloodstream or another sterile area of the body Semi-Critical items with the potential for contact with open lesions, or irritated mucous membranes, are treated as Critical items
Examples	Environmental surfaces, shared wheelchairs in clinics, treatment surfaces (mats, plinths and tables), blood pressure cuffs, toys, stethoscopes, audiometers, shared walking aids	Reusable ear syringe nozzles, trans-rectal probes, vaginal, nasal and rectal specula	Surgical and dental instruments, foot and nail equipment
Reprocessing Requirements (Minimum Requirements)	Cleaning followed by low level disinfection In some cases, cleaning alone is acceptable.	Cleaning followed by high level disinfection (at minimum), sterilization preferred. After every use, between clients and if item becomes contaminated. Contact Infection Prevention and Control for more information	Cleaning followed by sterilization after every use, between clients and if item becomes contaminated Contact Infection Prevention and Control for more information