

## GLOSSARY

1. Alkaline detergents – Detergents that contain a pH greater than 7
2. Biodegradable- Readily decomposed by bacteria or enzymatic actions
3. Blood borne pathogens - pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and cause disease in humans.
4. Catalyst – Substance which influences the speed of a chemical reaction without being consumed.
5. Caustic cleaners – Corrosive and burning; agent, particularly an alkaline, that will destroy living tissue. Causes pitting, discoloration and damages anodized aluminum
6. Cleaning - Removal of all visible soil and any other foreign matter.
7. Corrosion – Act of wearing away gradually by a chemical reaction
8. Contamination - The presence of pathogenic microorganisms on or in an object.
9. Decontamination - Process that removes contaminating infectious agents and renders reusable medical products safe for handling.
10. Degradation - The gradual breakdown of components of a material, as a result of a natural element.
11. Disinfection – Destruction of nearly all pathogenic microorganisms on an inanimate surface.
12. Enzymes - Protein substance produced by living matter, which produces a reaction in another substance without changing itself
13. Enzymatic detergents – Solution containing special enzymes that dissolves proteinaceous materials.
14. EPA – (Environmental Protection Agency) is an agency of the federal government of the United States charged with protecting human health and the environment, by writing and enforcing regulations based on laws passed by Congress.
15. Green Chemistry - Green chemistry, also known as sustainable chemistry, is the design of chemical products and processes that reduce or eliminate the use or generation of hazardous substances. Green chemistry applies across the life cycle of a chemical product, including its design, manufacture, and use.
16. Hazardous substances –Substances that cannot be disposed of in the facility's normal trash system.
17. pH: Measure of alkalinity or acidity. A pH of 7 on a scale of 0 to 14 is neutral (neither acid nor alkaline); below 7 is acid and a pH above 7 is alkaline.
18. Re-usable medical devices - Devices intended for repeated use on different patients, with appropriate decontamination and other processing between uses.
19. Sterilization – Process by which all forms of microbial life including bacteria, viruses, spores, and fungi are completely destroyed.
20. Surfactant – Surface-active substance; alters (usually lowers) the surface tension of water; used in wetting agents, and detergents; three types: nonionic, anionic and cationic.