

SteriTite® Case Carts

Instructions for Use



Case Carts are transport vehicles intended to secure items such as instrument sets and surgical supplies from the Sterile Processing Department of the healthcare facility to the Operating Room and back again for reprocessing. Using well-designed surgical case carts with set location can help track inventory levels and ensure that medical staff has access to the necessary tools and supplies. Case Medical's Case Carts can be modified to fit elevators, transport vans and automatic cart pick-up systems.

Recommended Usage

"All clean or sterile items being transported in uncontrolled environments should be in a covered or enclosed cart with a solid bottom shelf. ... *Rationale:* Covered or enclosed carts protect sterile items from inadvertent contact with personnel and other sources of contamination and from environmental challenges that might exist along the transportation route. ... Surfaces that are in direct contact with sterile packaging should have minimum bioburden to decrease the risk of microbial penetration. ... Carts and reusable covers should be cleaned after each use because even though they are sterile, contamination is picked up from the environment." (ANSI/AAMI ST 79 10.8.2)

Case Medical advises that all general safety precautions are adhered to and the following steps are recommended for satisfactory use:

- Care should be taken when transporting the cart, i.e. doors properly secured and wheels unlatched
- Doors should be closed during transport and once populated with supplies needed for surgery
- A document holder is provided on most models to hold pick lists or other necessary information
- Alternatively, Case Medical can provide paperless options for tracking and document control
- Once items have been removed, the cart may remain for transport of used items
- Staff handling contaminated items must follow facility guidelines and standard precautions
- After use, the cart should be properly decontaminated (See Care and Maintenance recommendations below)
- Once cleaned, the cart should be inspected for damage or wear. For example, shelves should be properly secured, doors should close and open easily, and wheels should be free of obstructions
- If necessary or deemed faulty, case cart should be taken out of service for maintenance or repair
- **Care should be taken when loading the cart, i.e. heavier sets placed on lower shelves. Do not stack wrapped trays as this may compromise their ability to maintain a sterile barrier. Tears will require reprocessing of the set.**

- Sterilization containers should be placed flat on the shelf. Two (2) containers may be stacked, one on top of the other, for transport. Tall Standard and Tall Deep Case Carts allow for placement of two (2) containers per shelf.
- *OPTIONAL:* When contaminated items are transported in the case cart, the cart should be clearly labeled. Case Medical provides a sliding Disposition Monitor whereby contents are identified with visible signage indicating that the contents are “CLEAN” or “BIOHAZARD” (not safe for handling without taking proper protective precautions). In addition, Case Medical also provides tamper-evident seals in White for processed items, Red with biohazard symbol for contaminated or used items.
- *NOTE:* The Joint Commission is now requiring that used and processed items for surgery be identified.

Case Cart Care & Cleaning

(Source: The Specialty Steel Industry of North America (SSINA))

Introduction

Case Carts like any other item used in surgery or for patient care should be cleaned after each use. “Cleanliness and stainless steel are closely related and, in many applications, each is dependent on the other.” Stainless steel is a durable metal with a high degree of corrosion resistance. However, stainless steel performs best when clean—cleanliness is essential for maximum resistance to corrosion.

Cleaning of Stainless Steel Case Carts & Surfaces

SteriTite® Case Carts may be cleaned manually, in automated cart washers, or utilizing our enzymatic wipes followed by a thorough rinse and optional application of alcohol wipes to facilitate drying and provide further decontamination as a final step.



Stainless steel surfaces need to be cleaned and dried thoroughly to preserve corrosion resistance. Dirt and organic soil or other contaminants can reduce corrosion protection. Stainless steel does not “wear out” by routine or excessive cleaning. Nonetheless, caustic chemicals such as alkaline cleaners or acid, if not thoroughly rinsed off, can cause surface degradation and even rusting.

Clean using warm water and a validated detergent. Neutral pH cleaners with chelating agents can provide a safe and effective way to remove adherent soil. Alkaline cleaners may be used if followed by an acid neutralizer and thoroughly rinsed after application. Use mild, non-scratching abrasive cleaners such as Soft Scrub with warm water and a clean cloth. For stains such as lime, scale, or residue, an acid based cleaner such as Case Medical’s SchmutzOff® can remove discoloration and staining, but must be thoroughly rinsed off after application.

Dry well to avoid water spots. Buffing with a soft pad can be an option for stubborn stains. Some mild stains such as fingerprints may be removed with a glass cleaner or an alcohol wipe such as provided by Case Medical.

NOTE: Rubbing or wiping should be done in the direction of the grain, NOT across it.

CAUTION: Steel brushes, abrasive pads, or steel wool, if applied, may scratch the stainless steel surface and can lead to rusting. Avoid chloride-containing detergents. Failure to follow manufacturer's instructions can void the Warranty.

Methods of Cleaning and Cleaners

Case Medical recommends the use of its validated Case Solutions® pH neutral detergents with chelating agents to remove contaminants and draw hard water ions and minerals from the surface. To remove stains, discolorations, and hard water deposits, Case Medical offers SchmutzOff® to sparingly recondition the stainless steel surface. After application, the surface must be thoroughly rinsed to remove any residue and prevent surface degradation.

NOTE: "The use of a cart wash system is recommended for decontaminating closed carts. Additionally, routine cleaning of the case cart wheels should be performed to remove string and other debris to maintain the easy movement of the wheels" (*Standards of Practice for the Decontamination of Surgical Instruments*, AST 2009).

Caster Maintenance

- **Wheels**

- Wheels should be checked for visible wear. Rubber tires can wear, causing erratic steering and shifting of load. If upon inspection foreign material is observed on the wheel bearing, remove the axle bolt and nut and clean.
- Swivel casters may wear and exhibit excessive play. They may get embedded with corrosion or accumulated soil, and may need replacing.
- If slipping is observed, replace the wheels.



- **Locks and Brakes**

- Check to ensure that the locking mechanism is functioning correctly.
- Check the brake for proper position and ease of use.
- Repair or replace brake if it is not operating correctly. Retest before placing back in service.
- **NOTE:** Wheels, bearings, and screws should be kept on hand as replacement parts to avoid down time.



- **Lubrication**

- Case Medical provides stainless steel casters for all of its Case Carts.
- If necessary, utilize a lubricant such as Case Medical's InstruCreme®, an environmentally-preferred lubricant validated for medical devices and equipment.
- Lubrication may be more frequent in wet or corrosive environments and may add to the useful life of the wheel and swivel bearings.

Operational Guidelines for Use

Offsite transportation per ANSI/AAMI ST 79:

Vehicles used to transport packages between health care facilities should provide for the complete separation of clean and sterile items from contaminated items. Transport vehicles must be completely closed and leak-proof. Carts containing sterile packages should be secured within the vehicle to prevent damage or contamination.



Transport

Case carts should be closed during transport. A handle is provided and should be used for pulling or pushing the Cart.

- *Door Lock*

- A side catch will hold the Case Cart door open for placement of supplies on shelves or to hold the door open during the cleaning process.
- Lift the catch up to release.



- *Wheel Lock*

- A brake is supplied on the back wheel assembly to lock the Cart in place.
- To release, step downward on the brake for the Cart to move.
- If a Cart is to be transported in a van or other vehicle, a secondary wheel brake is suggested.

- *Shelving*

- Case Medical provides adjustable shelves that are perforated for ventilation and constructed of a single sheet of stainless steel (no wire shelving) to prevent damage to instrument sets or supplies.
- No shelf liners are recommended.
- Shelf location may be adjusted by raising the shelf upward at an angle to release the pin from the keyhole and then slide shelf out.
- Install shelf by lifting at an angle and place pin in keyhole of rail assembly.
- If adjustable shelves are required, Case Medical provides a latching mechanism such that the shelves cannot move forward during transport.



- *Optional Disposition Monitor*

- For transporting clean unused instruments, move slide over to green "CLEAN" setting. Optionally lock in place by threading through hole white tamper-evident seal and locking seal into itself for extra security.
- For transporting dirty/contaminated instruments, move slide to red "BIOHAZARD" setting and shift down to lock monitor in place. Optionally secure by threading through hole red Biohazard symbol tamper-evident seal and locking seal into itself for extra security.



Warranty

Case Medical, Inc.®'s product line is guaranteed to be free of functional defects in workmanship and materials when used as directed for its intended purpose, as long as product is owned by the original purchaser. *Case Medical, Inc.*® will repair or replace, at their discretion, any product found to have a manufacturing defect within three (3) years from the date of delivery at no charge to the customer.

The following exclusions apply to the Case Carts replacement and repair warranty:

- Damage due to the use of caustic or abrasive cleaning agents. (Refer to Instructions for Use as to the proper specifications for the washing detergent. Case Medical recommends use of Case Solutions and SuperNova instrument cleaners or other pH neutral detergents).
- Excessive handling and abuse. (Refer to the IFUs for operational guidelines.)
- Damage from fire, flood, or other unpredictable event not under the control of *Case Medical, Inc.*®

CASE MEDICAL, INC.® RETURNED GOODS POLICY

Case Medical, Inc.® wants full customer satisfaction with its products, promptness, and customer service. Should you encounter a situation in which you wish to return a product, please contact our Customer Service Department at 1-888-227-CASE for proper authorization.

- All returns must be assigned an authorization number by *Case Medical, Inc.*®
- A completed Returned Goods Authorization (RGA) form must be affixed to the outside of all returned packages, showing prior cleaning and decontamination of returned merchandise.
- Issue of an RGA number should not be interpreted as a final credit to the customer account.
- *Case Medical, Inc.*® reserves the right to evaluate incoming returns prior to issuing any customer credit. Products returned after 30 days will be issued partial credit only.

The following items are not returnable, except in the case of a manufacturing defect or product complaint:

1. Products held longer than 60 days from the date of delivery.
2. Products that have been used.
3. Custom or modified products.
4. Discontinued products no longer carried on the current Case Medical Price List.
5. Products not properly packaged for returns.

NOTE: Non refundable products received by Case Medical will be returned directly to the customer with a letter of explanation.

Product, which is not within the criteria of non-returnable merchandise, will be issued credit as follows: Credit will be issued for products returned in original packaging and resalable condition according to *Terms and Conditions*. Products returned after thirty (30) days will be issued partial credit only. Shipping to and from the facility will be borne by the purchaser.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

All orders are subject to acceptance by *Case Medical, Inc.*® *Case Medical, Inc.*® reserves the right to make changes in design or product improvements. Prices do not include any taxes: federal, state, city, or local. Shipments will be FOB South Hackensack, NJ.

- Careful inspection of the product should be made upon arrival, and visible damage should be noted upon carrier's receipt.
- A lost or damaged shipment in transit requires that the purchaser make his claim directly to the carrier.
- All merchandise must be unpacked and inspected within seven (7) days after receipt. Damage should be reported to the carrier within that period.
- Unless notified in advance, *Case Medical, Inc.*® reserves the right to make partial shipments.

- Returns will only be accepted when authorized by *Case Medical, Inc.*® corporate office and a fully executed RGA has been approved.

The following information is required for acceptance from the original purchaser:

- Reason for return
- Purchase Order (PO) Number
- Lot Number
- Date of Purchase
- Completed RGA form
- If sent for repair, completed statement that the product has been fully decontaminated
- A Purchase Order for the cost of repair

ABOUT CASE MEDICAL



Case Medical is a manufacturer of products for instrument processing. We are an FDA registered, ISO 13485 certified medical device manufacturer with CE mark and 510k clearances. As a vertically integrated medical device manufacturer, we are proud to offer our durable, environmentally preferred stainless steel case carts for transport of surgical devices.

Case Medical manufactures case carts under our roof in South Hackensack, NJ.