

Hydrocollator Maintenance Policy

To maintain the hydrocollator the following should occur:

- Temperature should be monitored and recorded daily (weekdays and weekends when department is open) on the maintenance log
- Water level should be checked daily and fill as needed, evaporation does occur
- Hydrocollator must be drained, cleaned and refilled every 2 weeks with a microbial cleaner as per Facility requirements (vinegar & water solution or a low abrasive bathroom cleaner is also adequate). Record the cleaning dates on the maintenance log

Safety: To keep patients safe, when no one is in the department, the hydrocollator needs to be in a locked room or have a lock on it. Locking therapy room is also sufficient.

Processes:

Temperature Checks:

Check Temperature daily

Place thermometer in water until temp is steady.

Record temperature on the log

Temperature should be between 160 - 165 degrees F unless specified differently by the manufacturer

Any deviations outside this range, unless specified by manufacturer, should be corrected immediately. Machine needs to be placed out of service until the temp is corrected.

Cleaning Process:

Turn your hydrocollator off and unplug it from the power source. It is the first step and a necessary action every time you are engaging in cleaning, repair or maintenance of your hydrocollator.

Locate the drain valve on your hydrocollator. Although every model is slightly different, nearly all hydrocollators have the drain valve at the bottom, on the back side of the machine.

Open the drain valve of the hydrocollator to drain the excess water. Be sure to have a plastic container ready to catch all the water from the machine or drain the machine near a floor drain. You can also use an extension hose to drain the hydrocollator. When you have finished the draining process, if you collected it into a container, dispose of the water in a safe and responsible manner.

Remove the hot packs and rinse thoroughly with tap water. Place to the side while cleaning hydrocollator.

Remove the excess water from the inside of the hydrocollator with a towel.
Clean the inside of the machine and racks with anti-microbial solution.
Remove rack and rinse with water.
Rinse the inside of the machine with water, let water drain
Replace the rack and the hot packs into the machine.
Refill the machine with water

Plug hydrocollator back into power source to allow it to heat back up to 160 - 165 degrees F. Do not use until Temp is back to appropriate level.

Record the date of the cleaning on the log