

Original Question: I'm wondering if any sites currently have dishwashers installed in order to clean feeding supplies and/or toys that are frequently mouthed. We have received some conflicting information in regards to the expectation from Joint Commission, so I'm wondering how others are tackling cleaning of feeding therapy supplies.

1. We had to remove all dishwashers due to joint commission and have to use disposables.... Paper plates , bowls etc... Parents now bring in feeding utensils for the evaluation and therapy. This was a big change for us. Hope that helps.
2. Last JC we had to STOP using dishwasher. I believe the main reason was that our state has laws for the disinfection temperatures for dishwashers and the standard dishwasher does not reach that state law. So this might be different by state.
3. We do use a dishwasher for these items in rehab.
4. We are currently going through this as well. Our surveyor recommended disposable products. We are an OP site in a hospital network.

We use take and toss or paper disposable products and have an industrial dishwasher on our campus for our IP unit. The conflict is items that are "top rack only" or not dishwasher safe need to be disposable or families take home and return.

For our IP pediatrics our process for bottle and nipples is handwash then Medela or Dr Browns steamable bags however all of these items are single patient use including the bags.

5. Yes, but we use it to wash/rinse only (we wipe them off with disinfectant towels before dishwasher). We do have one commercial grade at one off site that we are not thrilled with. We don't have to use disinfectant first if we use that one.
6. We do not have a dishwasher. We send any reused supplies to Sterile Processing.
7. We do use a dishwasher for all feeding supplies. The water temp needs to be a minimum of 165 degrees. We use wipes for cleaning all of our toys, and have two types, one that kills almost everything except C diff, and one that kills C diff
8. At our organization, we do. We have a log for each dishwasher, and use temperature strips once/week and log the date and the result of the temperature strip (basically, the strip turns a

bright orange color when the temperature reaches a certain level, indicating that the water temperature is hot enough). If it does not turn the appropriate color, the follow up action is to decommission the use of the dishwasher and put in a service request to our facilities department. We also use this process with appropriate toys.

9. Our Organization does use dishwashers in our sites to clean feeding items appropriate for cleaning and multiple use. We use test strips that record the temperature each time we run the dishwasher and needs to reach 180 degrees to disinfect. We then attach these strips to a log and indicate pass/fail. If a failure, we need to re-run the dishwasher to ensure sanitization.

Our policy also allows use of microwave steam cleaning bags or using a bleach solution with a water rinse. Preferably we use dishwashers.

Please let me know if you have more questions. This has been successful for the Joint Commission inspections of our outpatient sites.

10. Yes, we have small countertop dishwashers for feeding supplies/toys in each of our feeding rooms at our organization.
11. While we do have access to a standard dishwasher we are sending them in a tub marked “therapy” to the kitchen to be sent through the commercial washer. The bin goes through the wash with them and then our rehab assistants go back to the kitchen to get the bin of items. The standard washer takes too long to run and this avoids some of the regulatory issues. We are not Joint Commission regulated.
12. At our organization, we have been directed by our infection control team the following:

Department of Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Services:

Use of Feeding Equipment Policy

A. Feeding Simulation with Adaptive utensils for Patients Who Mouth Utensils

1. Single-use Feeding Utensils (e.g., plastic utensils, take and toss, marron spoons, inexpensive metal utensils)

- Single-use feeding items may be used for feeding simulation to the mouth and/or used with food. After patient use, these items are to be disposed or issued to the patient.

- Single-use utensils should be adapted via closed cell handles and custom curves for spoons and forks. After the feeding trial, handles/curves should be either:

- o (1) Issued to the family

- o (2) Low-level disinfected. If low-level disinfection is employed, the item should be wiped with a hospital-approved disinfectant wipe, allowed to air dry, rinsed thoroughly with water, and dried. If an accelerated hydrogen peroxide product is used to disinfect adaptive utensils, rinsing is not necessary. The single-use spoon and fork are disposed of.

- Individually packaged single-use utensils should be stored in their original package until use.
- For single-use utensils that are not individually packaged by the manufacturer, the items must be individually packaged in clear, re-sealable plastic bags by Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy Services staff.

## 2. Patients Who Require the use of Non-Single-Use Custom Feeding Utensils

- When single-use feeding utensils cannot be used for a patient assessment, the therapist is to speak to the Manager/Director to review alternative therapy options and to discuss whether the use of special needs feeding utensils is required.
- Non-single-use utensils that have been “mouthed,” otherwise contaminated with potentially infectious body fluids, or used with food must be issued to the patient or disposed.
  - o Items would need to be purchased prior to trialing them if no single use feeding option is possible.

## B. Feeding Simulation with Adaptive utensils for Patients Who Do Not Mouth Utensils

- After each use, utensils are placed into a designated “Dirty Utensil” container. If food is used during the simulation, the therapist must thoroughly clean the utensil with soap and water prior to placing the item in the “Dirty Utensil” container.
- At least once a day, all items in the “Dirty Utensil” container must undergo low-level disinfection. Each utensil is to be wiped with a hospital-approved disinfectant wipe, allowed to air dry, rinsed thoroughly with water, and dried. If an accelerated hydrogen peroxide product is used to disinfect adaptive utensils, rinsing is not necessary.

After items have thoroughly dried, the utensils must be individually packaged in clear, re-sealable plastic bags to designate that they are clean and ready for patient use.

13. At our organization, we clean our nipples/bottles/sippy cups- all products used in oral motor feeding in a dishwasher. In the hospital, we use the dishwasher in Dietary and we have a dishwasher in outpatient.
14. We recently underwent a dishwasher change out mandated by Infection Control. The new dishwashers are made by Hobart and they reach the required temperature for both Joint Commission and Ohio Food Code. Here are the details of the findings from our Infection Control:
- Joint Commission requires toy dishwashers achieve 160°F wash water
  - Joint Commission requires oral therapy and feeding utensil dishwashers achieve 180°F wash water, and that its temperature be validated by irreversible temperature test strip and monitored into a logging system.
  - Ohio Food Code 3717-1-04.6 requires dishwasher water temperature be 180°F in the absence of chlorine sanitization.
  - Ohio Plumbing Code requires our water temperature be delivered at 110°F +/- 5°F.
  - NSF/ANSI 184 certified residential dishwashers are designed to provide 150°F water and require a source water temperature of 120°F. Thus, residential dishwashers do not meet the standards.
15. We use a commercial dishwasher for our feeding equipment. Toy cleaning varies depending on what it is. If it is mouthed we like the dishwasher unless it is something like a ball that can be easily wiped down.
16. We use the dishwasher for cleaning feeding supplies. We have dishwashers that have a sanitize feature. With each wash we use a temperature test strip which verifies the temperature reached a minimum of 180 degrees F. We then log the test strips in case there is ever a question. For smaller sites that do not have dishwashers, we use bottle sterilizers and still utilize the temperature test strip.
17. Our Organization has a dishwasher for our inpatient rehab kiddos who perform meal prep not for feeding supplies and/or toys that are frequently mouthed.

Please share the joint commission standard.

18. We currently have a dishwasher installed and is used for the following purposes:
1. To sanitize feeding items such as plates, bowls, utensils, bottles. Items such as straws, nipples, etc. are considered single use and we through them away after patient use. Some items we may keep and wash for multiple use with a single patient. These items are stored in baggies with patient names on them.

2. We occasionally clean toys that are able to handle the dishwasher. Typically we use a food grade approved cleaner (Oasis 146) for daily/routine cleaning of items that could be mouthed. Use of the dishwasher for these items is intended for deeper cleaning of the items that tend to get dirt/film build-up. These items cannot have areas where water can get in and not get out easily.

3. We use detergent containing bleach and utilize temp strips to ensure the temperature reaches 180 degrees.