



# Posey Company

5635 Peck Road

Arcadia, CA 91006-0020 USA

Toll Free: (800) 44-POSEY or (800) 447-6739

<http://www.posey.com>

**FAQ No.:** 32

**FAQ:** Can Leather and Synthetic Leather be sterilized or disinfected ?

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There is no universally accepted method of sterilizing or disinfecting leather or synthetic leather products. Traditional methods of sterilization, e.g., bleach, autoclaving, steam, and ETO gas sterilization, are not effective since leather is a very porous, biogenic material that will deteriorate with exposure to germicidal chemicals or high heat/moisture. Furthermore, because of the natural porosity of leather, residual disinfectant may accumulate to pose possible risk to the caregiver and/or patient.

Synthetic Leather may be sanitized (reduction of at least 99.9% of organisms) by entirely submerging the product in 70% alcohol for 10 minutes. Be sure the product is completely dry before applying to a patient.

Since effective disinfecting and sterilizing of leather, and synthetic leather cannot be achieved, any leather or synthetic leather product contaminated with blood or bodily fluids should be discarded. A suitable alternative is the Posey T-A-T Cuff (#2790 - #2799). The Posey T-A-T Cuff may be laundered according CDC recommendations for linens soiled with blood or body fluid. For a durable, sterilizable restraint cuff alternative, we recommend the Posey E.D. Security Cuff (#2835).

For complete cleaning and use instructions for all Posey products, please refer to package insert instructions accompanying each product. Copies of all package insert instructions are available on the Posey website at <http://www.posey.com>.

We hope this answers your questions. If you have any further questions, please feel free to call Posey Customer Service at (800) 44-POSEY or (800) 447-6739.