

**Prevent Cable Kinking and Extend Cable Life** - Kinked cables can cause damage to the internal wires and braided ground compromising the cameras video signal and shortening the cables useful life. Kinks stretch the outer sheathing of the cable making it more vulnerable to cuts. Once stretched the outer sheathing will not return to its original shape.

- Neatly and gently coil the cable into a circle not smaller than 10” in diameter between cases.
- Gently and carefully uncoil the cable completely prior to use.
  - Tight coiling and pulling of cables can lead to knots.
  - Pulling on cables is a leading cause of cable kinking and damage resulting in poor video quality.
- Be careful not to step on or roll over cables with a cart.

Some kink damage is only a cosmetic issue, but proper care and handling of video cables will help eliminate problems that can arise from kink damage. Eliminating kink damage will help extend the useful life of the cable resulting in fewer repairs and less expense to maintain your surgical cameras.

**Prevent Fluid Damage to Electronic Components** - Inspect cable & connector assembly for any visible damage, including bent or broken pins, to reduce additional damage that can be avoided with proactive service.

- Never sterilize a camera with a cut cable.
- Do not combine cameras and sharp instruments on the same sterilization tray, as this can lead to cuts in the cable jacket.
  - Small cuts can result in severe fluid invasion and may only be visible under magnification.
- Avoid electrical damage by drying camera connector prior to plugging into Camera Control Unit (CCU) receptacle.
- Make sure the manufacturer’s soaking cap is properly installed prior to sterilization and that the seals are in good condition. Improper use of the soaking cap or using damaged soaking caps can cause camera damage.

**Protect Cameras from Impact Damage** - Most cameras have 3-Chip technology and are particularly susceptible to damage caused by impact or other blunt force.

- Do not drop the camera head into a tray, gently place the camera down whenever handling it.
- Do not allow the connector to fall to the floor which could lead to damage of the connector assembly or pins. The connector is designed to fit tightly into the video processor receptacle and seemingly minor damage can degrade the video signal or proper fit of the connector.
- Be careful not to cut or damage the camera cable jacket. If the cable jacket is compromised fluid or other sterilants may invade the camera causing serious damage to internal components.

### **Limit Residue Build Up during Sterilization –**

- Sterilize Camera and coupler separately to eliminate moisture between the devices which can cause residue build up.
- We do not recommend cross sterilizing cameras using two sterilization methods. Residue from each sterilization process remains on the camera after each process and when these two residues are combined it results in the accelerated wear of camera components and seal points.
- Clean residual fluid off of the instruments after sterilization or disinfection. Pay extra attention to any optically clear areas. For instance, the glass windows of the endocoupler may become stained if sterilants are allowed to dry in place after sterilization.

NOTE: This information is intended to be a supplement to the manufactures stated sterilization and disinfection protocols or those set forth by AAMI, AORN, IAHCMM, JCAHO, ASHCSP and individual state departments of health.