



SURGICAL INSTRUMENT CLEANING POSTER



STAIN GUIDE FOR STAINLESS STEEL

STAIN COLOR	CAUSE
Brown/Orange	High pH
Dark Brown	Low pH
Bluish/Black	Reverse plating due to mixed metals during cleaning process
Multicolor	Excessive heat
Light/Dark Spots	Water droplets drying on the surface
Black	Contact with ammonia
Gray	Excessive use of rust remover solution
Rust	Dried-on blood or bio-debris

STAIN TABLE

Although stainless steel is corrosion resistant, it can still rust and/or stain if it is handled improperly. To determine if a discoloration is rust or just a stain, erase the discoloration with a pencil eraser. If there is pitting in the metal under the discoloration, it is corrosion. If the discoloration is removed, it was just a stain.

BONUS

