

Reusable sterilization wrappers FAQ



Processing reusable surgical textiles is a multistep process. It should be supervised by a team of professionals that is knowledgeable about the properties of reusable surgical textile products, equipment operation, principles of sterilization and principles of infection prevention and control. Adequate supervision is also important to employee safety.

This document is intended to address frequently asked questions about reusable sterilization wrappers. If you or your facility have questions, please reference the following documents or reach out to your Medline Representative:

- AAMI ANSI ST79
- AAMI ANSI ST65

1. Why would I use reusable wrappers?

Reusable textiles offer savings in cost, energy, water, waste and greenhouse gas emissions while mitigating supply risks compared to disposables.

2. What are the steps for handling and processing reusable wrappers?

Collection, washing and drying, inspection, wrapping/folding, sterilization, transportation and storage.

3. How long do reusable wrappers last?

We have testing to support the following recommended usages:

AngelStat Wrappers: 50 cycles of wash/dry/sterilize

Ripstop/ResiStat: 75 cycles of wash/dry/sterilize

(If other testing is needed, please contact Sales Representative)

4. How do I track the number of times a wrapper has been processed?

Resistat and Ripstop wrappers contain a convenient quality grid to assist the facility in tracking number of cycles a wrapper has undergone. We recommend using a laundry marker to fill out the grid.

*Coming Fall 2021: Angelstat wrappers will also include quality check grid

5. What type of sterilization machine can be used?

We recommend in our IFU the Prevac Steam Sterilization.

6. How can I be sure the packs have been fully sterilized?

We recommend using biological indicators for vacuum sterilizers, available on Medline.com, to monitor the effectiveness of steam sterilization.

7. What can be used to seal and secure the wrappers?

Autoclave steam sterilization tape may be used for closure and can be found on Medline.com.

8. What types of items can be wrapped using reusable wrappers?

OR towels, gowns, instruments and trays. We have tested the wrappers to bear up to 17 lbs.

9. What type of education must be provided to the end-user when converting from disposable to reusable wrappers?

The majority of the protocol for end-users will remain the same as when using disposable wrappers. Instead of discarding into a waste bin, the wrappers will be discarded into a laundry collection bin (like they may do with OR towels, scrubs and other reusable surgical textiles).

Detailed information regarding safe collection, laundering, inspection, sterilization, etc. can be found in the ANSI AAMI documents referenced above.

10. What is the exact folding method for both 1-ply and 2-ply wrappers? Which fold should be used for reusable wrappers? Non-sequential or sequential?

For both 1-ply and 2-ply reusable wrappers, we recommend simultaneous double-wrapping using the square fold method outlined in ANSI/AAMI ST65: 2013 Section 8.5.

Simultaneous double-wrapping refers to wrapping with two layers of wrap material together simultaneously. Two single-layer wrappers or one bonded double-layer wrapper can be used.

Sequential wrapping refers to wrapping two layers of wrap material individually.

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11. What are the recommended laundry formulas for each wrapper?

Please see our IFU [here](#).

12. If we don't have the right sterilization machine, what should we do?

Wrappers are designed to be laundered and sterilized. If you are unable to do so at your facility, partner with a laundry. Medline Textiles Sales Reps can help coordinate new partnerships between laundries and facilities.

13. How does inspection work?

The wrappers should be inspected on a light table after each processing. Look for holes, tears, cuts or stains. If there is a hole, either discard the wrapper or set it aside to be patched. (See question 14 for more information)

14. What happens if there is a hole in a wrapper?

The guidelines for physical defects after laundering can be found in ANSI/AAMI ST65:2008 (R)2013 Section 7.2.3.

15. Which light table do you recommend for quality assurance inspections?

Medline does not sell light tables, but many customers purchase from [here](#).

16. Where can I find the IFU for these products?

You should receive a hard-copy of the IFU inside every shipment. You can also find the IFU [here](#).

Reusable wrapper options

AngelStat bias bound wrappers	ResiStat wrappers	Ripstop wrappers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2-ply made of 55% cotton/45% polyester• Stitched with a color-coded bias binding for quick identification• Pearl-stitched edges are color coded for easy size identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Made of 99% filament polyester/1% carbon fiber• The lightweight, 1-ply fabric produces virtually no lint• Air-textured surface allows for easy stacking of packs• Pearl-stitched edges are color-coded for easy size identification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Made of 99% polyester/1% carbon fiber for static control• Textured slip resistant surface• 1-ply with a fluid repellent finish• Pearl-stitched edges are color-coded for easy size identification

Our IFU provides the following information:

Washing and drying instructions: Temps, times, cycles, parameters

Warnings/what NOT to do: Bleach, softener or iron

Sterilization: Temps, times, cycles, parameters