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Cleaning and decontamination of VR-series beds and surfaces

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1. Purpose and scope

This guide describes how to clean and disinfect VR-7, VR-7 XW and VR-5 beds, the VR-A4 pump and VR-A4, VR-H2 and VR-F1 mattresses between patients and when soiled. It supplements the instructions for use and the hospital's own infection prevention policy, which takes precedence where it is stricter.

2. Definitions

Cleaning removes visible soiling and most micro-organisms with detergent and water. **Disinfection** reduces the number of micro-organisms further with a chemical agent. **Decontamination** means cleaning followed, where required, by disinfection.

3. Approved agents

Agent	Beds and pump	Mattress covers	Notes
Neutral detergent and warm water	Yes	Yes	For routine cleaning
Chlorine-releasing agent, up to 1,000 ppm available chlorine	Yes	Yes	Rinse with clean water and dry
Chlorine-releasing agent, 1,000 to 10,000 ppm	Yes	Yes	Rinse after 5 minutes. Repeated use at 10,000 ppm shortens cover life to about 18 months
Combined detergent and chlorine wipes	Yes	Yes	
Alcohol 70% wipes	Yes	No	Not more than once a day on the footboard panel screen
Hydrogen peroxide, up to 6%	Yes	Yes	
Quaternary ammonium compounds	Yes	Yes, rinse	Residues can make covers tacky
Phenolics, solvents, abrasives	No	No	Damage plastics and covers

4. Equipment

- Disposable cloths or wipes, one for each section of the bed.
- Personal protective equipment as your policy requires.
- Clean water for rinsing and disposable paper towels.

5. Beds: method

1. Disconnect the bed from the mains. Raise it to a comfortable working height first.
2. Remove the mattress, IV poles and accessories and clean them separately.
3. Lower all side rails. Clean from the cleanest to the dirtiest areas and from the top down: side rails, head and foot boards, the footboard panel and handsets, the platform sections, the frame, the lifting columns, the base frame and finally the castors.
4. Use cloths moistened, not wet. Do not spray liquid onto the bed or into the gaps around the footboard panel, handset connectors or controller housing.
5. Apply disinfectant if required, leave for the contact time, then rinse and dry.
6. Check the bed for damage, then reconnect it and check that the battery is charging.

6. Mattresses: method

1. Clean the top surface, then the sides, then the underside.
2. Unzip the cover and inspect the inside of the cover and the foam or cells for staining or damp.
3. If the inside is stained or damp, take the mattress out of use, label it and report it. Replace the cover, and the foam or cells if they cannot be cleaned.
4. Allow the cover to dry completely before making the bed.

7. VR-A4 pump

Disconnect the pump. Wipe with a damp cloth and an approved agent. Do not immerse it or let liquid enter the vents. The filter is changed at planned maintenance.

8. Infectious patients

Follow the hospital's policy for terminal cleaning. Mattress covers may be removed and laundered at up to 80 °C for 10 minutes and tumble-dried on a low setting; laundering reduces cover life.

9. What not to do

- Do not use automated bed washers, steam cleaners or pressure washers.
- Do not use abrasive pads or scrapers on covers or panels.
- Do not store mattresses folded or with weight on them.

10. Revision history

Revision	Date	Change
D	14 March 2022	VR-A4 added
E	21 October 2024	VR-7 XW added
F	8 September 2025	Laundering temperature; quaternary ammonium compounds added to the table