



12 Resolutions to Keep Your Flexible Endoscopes Happy Throughout the Year

✓**1** To avoid damage to the endoscope, check sinks, drains and countertops for sharp edges. Replace metal drain stoppers with rubber ones, and remove any sharp, pointed or unnecessary nearby objects.

✓**2** At least once a month, check water-resistant caps to ensure that the O-ring and seal are not worn or damaged.

✓**3** Check endoscope angulation to ensure proper settings monthly or after every service event, whichever comes first.

✓**4** To avoid poor color reproduction in your CCD-based camera system, always white balance the endoscope as soon as you plug it into the processor (not necessary for 160 scopes with the CV-160; white balance is automatically adjusted).

✓**5** After completing a patient procedure and bedside pre-cleaning, transport endoscopes to the reprocessing area in covered containers. To prevent cross-contamination and protect against damage, transport only one endoscope per covered container.

✓**6** Do not transport endoscopic accessories with endoscopes. Contact between accessories and endoscopes can result in endoscope damage, especially at the bending section.

✓**7** Perform leakage testing prior to the mechanical cleaning phase of each reprocessing procedure to prevent fluid invasion.

✓**8** Always reprocess every channel of an endoscope, even if a particular channel was not utilized during the preceding patient procedure, to remove retained debris that might be present in an unused endoscope channel.

✓**9** Manual cleaning is the first and most important step in removing the microbial bioburden from an endoscope. Failure to properly clean an endoscope can compromise high-level disinfection or sterilization efficacy.

✓**10** During manual cleaning, use fresh detergent solution diluted according to the detergent manufacturer's instructions. Proper dilution of detergent will contribute to its complete removal during rinsing prior to high-level disinfection or sterilization.

✓**11** Utilize endoscope-compatible liquid chemical germicides that have been tested for proper potency according to the germicide manufacturer's instructions.

✓**12** Store endoscopes in a clean, ventilated and uncluttered cabinet. Hang them vertically with valves and caps removed and with locks in the "free" position. This helps prevent damage and reduces the possibility of microbial growth in endoscope channels.

Review your Olympus operations and reprocessing manuals for detailed care and handling instructions.

Inspection of Water-Resistant Caps

The videoscope water-resistant cap performs two critical functions during reprocessing:

✓**1** It protects the connector from water and sterilant/disinfectant fluid invasion when correctly attached to the electrical connector on an endoscope.

✓**2** It allows leak detection in the endoscope when the venting connector on the cap is connected to the leakage tester.

Here are a few handling tips to ensure your water-resistant cap continues to function properly:

Before installation:

- Check the inside of the water-resistant cap to ensure it is free from debris.
- Check that the inside of the cap is dry. Any fluid inside the cap can be transferred to the electrical connector, causing damage.
- Inspect the cap for damage. If the cap is damaged, replace it with a new one.

Periodically, check the screws on the outside of the cap to ensure they are tight — they help hold internal components in place.

When removing the water-resistant cap from the scope, hold the cap so its opening faces downward. This ensures that any fluid in the installation

alignment grooves will fall to the outside of the electrical connector. If the cap is removed with the opening facing upward, fluid in the alignment grooves will fall inside the cap giving the impression that the cap leaked. During leak testing, look for air bubbles coming from the

water-resistant cap — this indicates a damaged cap. If you see bubbles coming from the cap, immediately remove the endoscope from the water and replace the water-resistant cap. Repeat the leak-testing procedure to ensure watertight integrity of both the endoscope and the water-resistant cap.

Example of damaged water-resistant cap



Damaged inner seal
Bent metal edge