

# Cleaning a Shirley® tracheostomy tube

## Purpose

Clean the tube every time you change it. A clean tube must always be ready and available for a routine or emergency change.

## Supplies needed

- Basin for cleaning
- Sterile water
- Peroxide
- Guide (Obturator)
- Basin for sterile water
- Container and lid
- Zip lock bag



## Procedure

1. Mix equal parts of sterile water and peroxide. This is half-strength peroxide.
2. Wash trach tube with warm tap water and a mild soap such as Ivory® Liquid to clear the secretions, rinse the trach tube with warm tap water. Push the guide through the trach tube to remove secretions in the tube.
3. Soak the tube and guide for one minute in the half-strength peroxide.
4. Rinse the tube and guide with sterile water. Check for any secretions. Re-clean if needed.
5. Soak the tube and guide in sterile water for one hour to remove the peroxide.
6. Put the tube and guide on a clean surface to air dry. **Dry completely** before storing.
7. Store in a container with a lid or zip lock bag. If there are water droplets in the container or bag, the tube is not completely dry. Bacteria will grow if the tube is not completely dry. Re-clean the tube.

## Special directions

- Check the tube for cracks. Throw away if it is cracked.
- Do **not** store the trach tube with the guide in the tube.
- Order new trach tubes monthly.
- If your child uses a Shirley cuffed trach tube, throw away after each use.

**ALERT:** Call your child's doctor, nurse, or clinic if you have any questions or concerns or if your child has special health care needs that were not covered by this information.

**This sheet was created to help you care for your child or family member. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment and follow-up.**