

Proper Care and Maintenance of a Prima Syringe

Updated: August 2018

Cleaning and Lubrication

After every use, you should thoroughly clean your syringe to keep it operating like new. Prima syringes are assembled from quality molded parts and are designed to last, but residue from products being syringed can harden and clog valves, preventing them from working properly. Cleaning a syringe is very important and quite simple.



To give your syringe a thorough cleaning, we recommend using hot (180°F) water, because it has proven to be tough on breaking down dirt, oils, and medicines that may clog up the internal working components of your syringe, without leaving harmful chemical or soap residues inside the syringe.



Neogen has also developed a convenient cleaning kit that includes pipe cleaners, small brushes, a flush attachment, a special spike removal tool, and a bottle of Prima Lube, all in a covered plastic bucket large enough to soak and clean your Prima syringe.

Here is a step-by-step process for cleaning your syringe.

1 - Choose a container large enough to totally submerge your syringe. Wear rubber gloves to protect hands from the hot water. Start by filling the container with hot (180°F) water.

2 - Clean the external syringe surfaces of the syringe first with hot water, using a brush to remove any dirt from all the crevices.

Caution: We do not recommend the use of soap or disinfectant on internal components of a syringe as these residues may harm or inactivate medications and vaccines.

3 - Hold the syringe under the hot (180°F) water solution and pump the syringe with the tubing still attached until all medicine residue is washed from the barrel of the syringe. If residue persists, remove the barrel from the syringe along with the tubing and allow the barrel to soak in the hot water for about a quarter hour.

4 - Remove all parts from the soak. Remaining residue and grime will be softened and easy to clean. Use a small brush to remove any stubborn matter or residue from the barrel, piston and plunger. Rinse thoroughly again with hot (180°F) clean water.

5 - Once the syringe is clean, lay it on clean towels to dry.

6 - Before reassembling the syringe, and without removing the o-ring from the piston, apply two to four drops of the specially formulated Prima Lube, a "food grade" oil, to the o-ring on the piston. No other oil will lubricate as safely and effectively as "food grade" oil. Only two to four drops are needed to lubricate the o-ring thoroughly.

7 - Then, re-insert the piston into the barrel and re-attach the barrel to the syringe with the barrel collar. Make sure to align the barrel appropriately and secure it tightly with the barrel collar.

Sterilizing

We always recommend that you consult your veterinarian, before attempting to sterilize syringes, to ensure proper sanitation techniques. Improper sterilization can harm your syringe and reduce the effectiveness of future injections.

Here is a step-by-step process for sterilizing your syringe with a microwave.

1 - Half-fill the syringe barrel with clean water.

2 - Carefully roll the syringe in three or four layers of paper towels so that the syringe is completely covered. There are metal parts in the syringe and this cover prevents their exposure in the microwave.

Caution: Because there are metal parts in a Prima syringe, never place an unwrapped syringe in a microwave. Doing so can be very dangerous to you and damage your microwave.

3 - Place the wrapped syringe in a large gallon-sized zip lock bag.

4 - Dampen the paper towels wrapped around the syringe using about one quarter cup of clean water.

5 - Fold the bag over but leave the bag open to allow for steam to escape preventing the bag from building pressure and bursting.

6 - Microwave the syringe in this package for 90 seconds in 1400-1600-watt units, 180 seconds in 1000-1400-watt units, 240 seconds in 800-1000-watt units, and 300 seconds in 500-800-watt units.

7 - After microwaving, open the microwave door, and wait 60 seconds before removing the package. Then, cautiously take the sterile syringe in its package out of the microwave with glove-covered hand, to protect hand from the hot (212°F) steam!

8 - Allow the syringe package to rest on a table or countertop, giving it time to cool to room temperature (ideally 59°F to 77°F) before handling.

9 - Press the air from the bag, seal it with the zip lock, and store the package in a low humidity and dust free environment.

Caution: Before using, be sure to allow the syringe to reach room temperature so that the heat will not do harm to what you are syringing (ideally 59° to 77°F).

Cleaning Video

For more guidance on sterilizing a syringe, there is a great step-by-step instructional You Tube video done by Dr. Dee Griffin, Great Plains Veterinary Center, in Clay Center, Nebraska, on how to sterilize reusable syringes. He sterilizes a Prima syringe in the video. We recommend this instructional video.

You can find this You Tube video on the internet by searching for: "Dr. Dee Griffin sterilizes a syringe."



You Can Extend the Life of Your Prima Syringe

So long as the syringe is cleaned and properly cared for, and the o-ring is lubricated correctly with a quality "food grade" oil, you should expect to get thousands of injections from your Prima syringe. We have high volume customers who routinely get over 8,000 shots per syringe, and we have some customers who have gotten over 25,000 shots from a single syringe. In our laboratory, we have run over 125,000 cycles on syringes, without a failure of any kind, with oil applied to the o-ring every 5000 cycles.

Securing Customer Assistance

Technical Support and Repairs for a Prima Syringe

When you need help or have questions concerning your syringe, you can contact Neogen's Quality Assurance Department toll free at: 1.888.833.7099 or directly at 910-296-6020.

Returns

If you should ever need to return your syringe to NEOGEN for repair or for replacement, contact a Customer Assistance person at 1.888.833.7099 or directly at 910-296-6020 to secure a "return authorization number", package your syringe with the "return authorization number" noted on the box, and send it via registered carrier (UPS, Fed-Ex) to the following address:

Neogen
279 Faison McGowan Road
Kenansville, NC 28349

We will promptly analyze and fix the problem, or we will replace your syringe, and then we will return a perfectly performing syringe to you at no charge.