

Shades of Green

Steam Integrators manufactured by SteriTec Products Mfg. Co., Inc. utilize sterilant specific ink chemistry. With sterilant specific ink chemistry, the processed Integrator undergoes a Purple to Green color change representing a "PASS". The Green PASS indicates that all conditions for sterilization have been met--time, temperature, and steam quality.

The chemical reaction that takes place is a hydration reaction. Steam molecules attach themselves to the purple colored chemical. As more and more steam molecules attach themselves to the ink chemicals, all traces of purple disappear. The fully hydrated chemical is green in color. All shades of green represent a PASS that all conditions for sterilization have been met. **ONLY THE PRESENCE OF ANY PURPLE COLOR ON A PROCESSED STEAM INTEGRATOR INDICATES A "FAIL".**

Conditions differ from sterilizer to sterilizer because the steam quality varies from sterilizer to sterilizer. Steam quality can even vary from location to location inside the chamber. The top back of the sterilizer chamber is usually drier and hotter than the lower front, for example. This variation in steam quality causes variations in the shade of green observed. Longer than usual exposure conditions, such as trays or loads left in the sterilizer for extended periods of time, can also create conditions that cause different shades of green to be observed. Users may see deeper shades of green, turning to a brownish green color for the longer overexposure periods. **ALL SHADES OF GREEN REPRESENT A "PASS" FOR INSTRUMENT RELEASE.**

The presence of differing shades of green can also become a Process Improvement tool to identify specific overexposure occurrences, wet steam conditions and even superheat as part of a Continuous Quality Improvement Process. Brownish means over exposure or superheat, light green means excessive moisture or wet conditions.

The logo for SteriTec features the word "SteriTec" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter "i" in "Steri" is lowercase and has a dot. The letter "T" in "Tec" is uppercase and has a diagonal slash through its top-right corner. The entire logo is underlined with a thick black line.

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