

Cleaning and Disinfecting the Vitalograph ALPHA

A new mouthpiece (either *SafeTway* or *BVF*) should be used for each subject. A delay of at least 5 minutes should be allowed between subjects to allow settling of previously aerosolized particles in the measuring device.

It is recommended that the flowhead be regularly cleaned according to the guidelines of the user's facility.

In the event of visible contamination of the flowhead cones or flowhead element, they should be cleaned or disinfected as described in the accompanying table. The flowhead conditioning meshes should also be replaced in the event of damage, or if visibly contaminated.

The frequency of cleaning and disinfecting is dependent on the Facility's Risk Assessment, usage, and test environment, but it should be at least monthly or every 100 subjects (500 blows).

It is recommended that the flowhead—flowhead complete and flowhead connection tube—be replaced annually. Refer to [Figure 2](#) for identification of parts.

Table of Materials Used & Cleaning/Disinfection Methods

This listing of materials used is given to provide users with information to allow the assessment of other cleaning and disinfecting procedures available in the facility on this device.

Part	Material	Clean/ Disinfect	Autoclave Possible?	Recommended Disinfectants
Case Exterior	ABS	Clean	No	Wiping with a 70% isopropyl alcohol impregnated cloth provides a suitable form of cleaning and low-level disinfection. This may be preceded by cleaning with an anti-static foam cleaner if necessary. Note: Ensure isopropyl alcohol does not come in contact with the screen. <i>Warning: Paper tear bar contains sharp edges. Users should take care not to cut/scrap their fingers.</i>
White Flowhead Tube	Silicone Rubber	Clean	Viable	
Screen	Electrode with Anti-Newton-Ring Treatment	Clean	No	Lightly wipe the surface with cotton pad or other soft material. NOTE: DO NOT use chemicals such as acetone, toluene, ethanol or isopropyl alcohol. DO NOT wipe in a circular motion. Strokes should be either up/down or over/back.
Fleisch Element	Aluminium, Stainless Steel	Clean	Viable	Disinfect by immersion in sodium dichloroisocyanurate solution at 1000 ppm concentration of free chlorine for 15 minutes (see following section for recommended cleaning/disinfection method for the Vitalograph COMPACT Flowhead) The flowhead may also be disinfected by autoclaving at 134°C for 3 minutes or 120°C for 20 minutes.
Flowhead Body	Aluminium & Acetyl	Clean & Disinfect	No	
Flowhead Cone	TPX	Clean & Disinfect	Viable	
Flowhead End Cap	TPX	Clean & Disinfect	Viable	
Flow Conditioning Meshes	Acetyl and Polyester	Dispose	No	

All external parts of the Vitalograph ALPHA require **cleaning**, i.e. the removal of visible particulate contamination. The parts of the Vitalograph ALPHA that make up the flowhead, which comes into contact with subjects being tested, also require **disinfecting**. A spirometer is not designed as a 'sterile' device.