

MAINTAINING MOLDS USED IN MEDICAL APPLICATIONS

Content courtesy of SLIDE Products.



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Never use aerosols. Clean rooms and aerosol products are mutually exclusive. Aerosols will have product drift, possibly contaminating the production area, or even other molding applications in the same room. Cleaners, releases, rust preventives and lubricants all need to be in non-aerosol delivery systems when used in a clean room.

Hand-spray pump bottles and lint-free wipes are much better options for controlling the application of cleaners, lubricants and rust preventives. Product can be applied with greater control and without drift. Even cotton swabs are used to maintain a mold while it is inside an environmentally controlled area.

Cleaning

Medical molding can have the same, tough problems as mold maintenance in any other part of the plant. The challenge is how to introduce a powerful cleaner while maintaining the integrity of the room.

Isopropyl alcohol is an ideal mold and metal cleaner for clean rooms, and it is easily applied with a spray bottle. It is powerful, especially in higher concentrations, yet approved for medical and food packaging applications. For tougher stains and resin build-up, molders will also apply the isopropyl alcohol then use a lint-free wipe to more aggressively rub the metal clean.

Look for cleaners that are registered **NSF category P1**, or at minimum rated as food-approved with the right citations.



Rust Prevention

Even an environmentally controlled area does not offer complete protection against oxidation and rust. Molds sitting idle for even short periods of time can start to oxidize. You need to protect critical components even when the mold is still in the machine.

Look for rust preventives registered 1, or at minimum rated as food-approved with the right citations.

Mold Releases

Sticky parts, parts that just don't want to drop and hang in the mold, need a little extra help. For medical molds, the room for error is non-existent, so strict adherence to acceptable formulations and application is critical. As described above, you need to use pump sprayers to target the trouble spots on a mold.

Look for releases that have been registered **NSF category M1**, or at minimum rated as food-approved with the right citations. This will help ensure you meet spec while at the same time maximizing productivity.

Here are several products from Slide Products to consider:

Mold Releases

- EconoMist
- LMR Lecithin
- Pure Eze
- Silicone Mold Release
- Universal

Rust Preventive

- White Rhino

Cleaners

- IPA isopropyl alcohol
- Mold Cleaner Plus Degreaser 4
- Mold & Metal Wipes
- NexGen
- On Cycle

Pin Lubrication

- Super Grease non-aerosol

Contact DME for more product options.

Call: **+1-800-626-6653**

or visit: dme.net/slide

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World Headquarters

DME Company LLC
29111 Stephenson Highway
Madison Heights, MI 48071
800-626-6653 *toll-free tel*
248-398-6000 *tel*
888-808-4363 *toll-free fax*
www.dme.net *web*
dme@dme.net *e-mail*

DME Canada

DME of Canada Ltd.
6210 Northwest Drive
Mississauga, Ontario
Canada L4V 1J6
800-387-6600 *toll-free tel*
905-677-6370 *tel*
800-461-9965 *toll-free fax*
dme_canada@dme.net *e-mail*

DME Mexico

DME Mexico / South America
Circuito el Marques Notre, No.55
Parque Industrial El Marqués
El Marqués, Querétaro, CP 76246
52.442.713.5666 *tel*
dme_mexico@milacron.com