

How to clean ACL Clamps



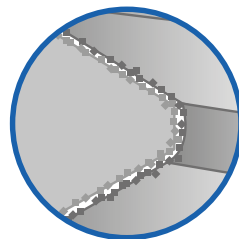
Sanitary clamps are an integral part of your hygienic processing system. As they are the component that is most likely to be disassembled and reassembled during maintenance works, they are often the component that is most likely to undergo a continued schedule of cleaning cycles.

Clamps in use

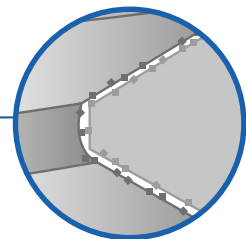
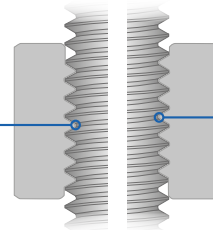
A standard clamp may contain as many as nine component parts. All of these parts are designed to function in a variety of conditions. The interaction between the component parts is affected by the ingress of dirt, the crystallisation of cleaning products and the wearing of components.

Material is worn away during on/off cycles. If this is not cleaned correctly, it will increase the chances of galling – see diagram.

Example of heavy particulate generation



Example of light particulate generation



Source: ACL® Anti-galling Clamps

Cleaning process

ACL clamps are produced from high quality stainless steels (316 / 304). This family of steels are mostly unaffected by the widely used cleaning products in the hygienic processing industry. However, there is an issue surrounding the correct cleaning procedure for the clamps.

The first, and most important rule, is to remove the nut from the eyebolt. The parts should be washed independently of each other to ensure any particulates, dirt, or cleaning products are not able to continue to contaminate the threads.

The cleaning of the clamps should always be carried out in line with the SOP's of the facility. The below is a general guide for the cleaning of the SH Clamp:

1. Remove the nut from the eyebolt.
2. Wipe with Spor-Klenz saturated lint-free wipes.
3. Wipe with 70% IPA saturated lint-free wipes.
4. Wash using CIP COSA 72 (acid) and CIP COSA 95 (caustic).

When the clamps have been cleaned, they should be visually inspected. Attention should be paid to the threads:

- Are the threads clean and free of debris?
- Do they have any cleaning residue?
- Are they damaged?

If the answer is 'yes' to any of these questions, they should be re-cleaned with rinsing being a priority.