

Cleaning and Decontaminating a Lightwriter

This document describes how to clean and decontaminate Lightwriter equipment.
This activity takes about 5 minutes.

The Lightwriter and associated equipment may become dirty through a variety of means such as saliva, mucus, spilt food and drink, and from contact with dirty hands. There may also be a need to decontaminate equipment to reduce the risk of infection transmission.

Cleaning Procedure

The recommended cleaning procedure is to wipe affected external surfaces with a cloth soaked in hot water with some washing-up liquid, and use a nail brush for more stubborn dirt.

The Lightwriter is splashproof but not waterproof. Do not allow water to enter inside the Lightwriter. It is recommended that you turn the Lightwriter on end with the charger point lowest and to clean the Lightwriter in this position, reducing the risk of any water entering inside the Lightwriter.

If the Lightwriter is fitted with a LightTouch keyboard, this may be dismantled by removing the 4 screws in the keyguard after which the keyguard and the 48 keys can then be lifted off. The keyguard and 48 plastic keys can be soaked in water and given a more thorough cleaning. Ensure the plastic keys and keyguard are dry before re-fitting. Moisten the rubber pegs with a damp cloth or saliva to prevent the keys sticking when being refitted. Keyboard layout:



Decontamination Procedure

There may be a requirement to decontaminate a Lightwriter and/or associated equipment after use to reduce the risk of infection transmission to other people. The *Central Public Health Laboratory* (a division of the *Department of Health* in the UK) has recommended the following decontamination procedure for this type of low-risk equipment:

- clean the external surfaces with a disposable paper wipe moistened with warm detergent solution. (*see Cleaning Procedure*)
- allow the surfaces to dry.
- wipe the surfaces with a commercially-available alcohol-impregnated disposable wipe.

Note that this equipment should not be sterilised, nor should disinfecting fluids be used as these may attack the plastic materials, and can make the transparent display filters go opaque.

Caution:

- do not immerse equipment in water
- do not use disinfecting fluids (such as surgical spirit, Hibitane (brand name for chlorhexidene) or Cidex (brand name for 2% alkaline-buffered glutaraldehyde))
- do not autoclave equipment or expose to elevated temperatures

Carry Bag

The soft Carry Bag for the Lightwriter contains porous foam and should not be put through a washing machine. If it becomes dirty, the outside may be cleaned by wiping it with a cloth soaked in warm water with some washing-up liquid, and using a nail brush for more stubborn dirt. Avoid soaking the Carry Bag as it will take a long time to dry out.

The Carry Bag cannot be decontaminated, and should be disposed of if cross-infection is a possibility