

Are you in compliance with CDC sterilization guidelines?

Dental handpieces and associated attachments, including low-speed motors and reusable prophylaxis angles, should always be heat sterilized between patients and not high-level or surface disinfected.¹

From 2003 to 2015, transmissions of infectious agents in dental settings, including patient-to-patient transmissions, have been documented.¹ In most cases, investigators failed to link a specific lapse of infection prevention and control with a particular transmission. However, reported breakdowns in basic infection prevention procedures included unsafe injection practices, failure to heat sterilize dental handpieces between patients, and failure to monitor (e.g., conduct spore testing) autoclaves.^{2,3}

Questions to ask yourself

- I heat sterilize all Handpieces, Low-Speed Motors, and Attachments after each use.
- I understand that surface disinfection is not sufficient for Low-Speed Motors.
- I only follow manufacturer instructions for sterilization between patient use.
- I thoroughly clean items according to manufacturer instructions.
- I discard single-use items after one use and do not use them for more than one patient.
- After sterilization, I store devices and instruments in a way that does not compromise sterility.

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings: Basic Expectations for Safe Care." Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Oral Health; March 2016.

² Radcliffe RA, Bixler D, Moorman A, et al. "Hepatitis B Virus Transmissions Associated with a Portable Dental Clinic, West Virginia, 2009". Journal of the American Dental Association, 2013;144(10):1110-1118.

³ Oklahoma State Department of Health. "Dental Healthcare-Associated Transmission of Hepatitis C: Final Report of Public Health Investigation and Response", 2013. Available at: http://www.ok.gov/health2/documents/Dental%20Healthcare_Final%20Report_2_17_15.pdf.

⁴ Data on file

To properly follow CDC guidelines, Dentsply Sirona suggests you have a minimum of three sets of hygiene handpieces per hygiene operatory (one in use, one cooling for the next patient, and one in the sterilizer).



Nupro Freedom™

Cordless Prophy System with SmartMode™ Technology

Package includes (3) sterilizable outer sheaths, sample Disposa-Shield® disposable barriers for the Inner Module, and 200 Disposable Prophy Angles to ensure your office is able to comply with CDC guidelines.

The Nupro Freedom Cordless Prophy System with SmartMode Technology was designed with CDC guidance documents in mind. The DPA and the outer sheath are considered semi-critical items as per CDC definitions and are designed to be either disposable or sterilizable via autoclave. The outer sheath does not have a direct pathway into the Nupro Freedom inner module and the inner module is not considered a critical and/or semi-critical device because it does not have direct contact with mucous membranes, non-intact skin, does not penetrate soft tissue, enter into or contact the bloodstream or other normally sterile tissue of the mouth. The inner module is to be covered with a disposable barrier prior to each use and properly disinfected after each use. The exposed back end of the inner module is considered a noncritical surface, and requires wipe disinfection. Users can find cleaning, disinfecting and sterilization instructions clearly identified in the product DFU.⁴



Cavitron®

Steri-Mate® and Steri-Mate® 360 Handpieces

The Cavitron Steri-Mate and Steri-Mate 360 Handpiece is available in multiple offerings including a convenient 3-pack for easy adherence to CDC guidelines. Cavitron Touch and Jet Plus Packages include (3) handpieces.

Designed with CDC guidelines in mind, the Cavitron Steri-Mate and Steri-Mate 360 Handpiece is detachable and autoclavable for enhanced infection control. Directions for proper cleaning and sterilization are included in the instructions for use.



Three Steri-Mate 360 handpieces are available in the Cavitron Touch package.