



Care and Maintenance of your Instruments

IMPORTANT NOTE: Instruments should only be used by trained dental professionals. This product is shipped in a non-sterile condition. The user is solely responsible for proper cleaning, disinfection, and sterilization as well as adherence to any local, regional, national, or international standards or regulations pertaining to these activities.

The “Guideline for Disinfection and Sterilization in Healthcare Facilities, 2008”, published by the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, provides valuable information on effective sterilization methods. For example, this document states “Recognized minimum exposure periods for sterilization of wrapped healthcare supplies are 30 minutes at 121°C (250°F) in a gravity displacement sterilizer or 4 minutes at 132°C (270°F) in a prevacuum sterilizer” when discussing steam sterilization in an autoclave. The full text of this document can be found at: http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/disinfection_sterilization/13_Osterilization.html

The following tips are offered to enhance the longevity and corrosion resistance of your investment:

- Use instruments only for their intended purpose
- Adjusting for local water conditions (filters/softeners) can help to minimize mineral deposits left on instruments
- Washing prior to sterilization with mild non-corrosive detergent can be enhanced by the use of ultrasonics
- Instruments must be thoroughly dried immediately after sterilization; water droplets remaining on stainless steel will result in surface oxidation (rust spots)
- Do not allow instrument to be heated above 350°F/177°C
- Hinged instruments must be cleaned and sterilized in the open position
- Appropriate lubrication of the hinged joint must be maintained, using a lubricant specifically made for dental instruments
- Phenols must not be used as disinfection agents