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Sterilizing Orthodontic Pliers

Clean instruments thoroughly, rinse and dry before sterilizing. After sterilizing, lubricate very sparingly. One drop or a light spray is sufficient. Wipe off excess lubricant.

Always lubricate after sterilization, because lubricants, waxes, and “sticky joint” remedies vaporize inside sterilization equipment and will saturate all other items placed in the chamber.

Over-use of lubricants or “sticky joint” treatments is the major cause of staining or discoloration of instruments. Brown or yellow stains generally can be removed by scrubbing with Type-A steel wool saturated with isopropyl alcohol.

Our wire forming and cutting instruments have been tested and found to be resistant to corrosion when sterilized using the following methods:

AUTOCLAVE

1. Air and towel dry instruments.
2. Instruments may be bagged prior to sterilization.
3. Place instruments on autoclave tray with jaws open. Proceed following manufacturer’s recommendations.
4. Remove instruments promptly after cycle is complete to avoid possible signs of corrosion.
5. When cooled, lubricate instruments sparingly.

CHEMCLAVE

1. Air and towel dry instruments.
2. Instruments may be bagged prior to sterilization.
3. Place instruments on paper towels. Do not process for longer than 20 minutes. Make sure that chemical additives are in correct proportions.
4. Remove instruments promptly after cycle is complete to avoid possible signs of corrosion.
5. When cooled, lubricate instruments sparingly.

DRY HEAT

1. Air and towel dry instruments – especially joints.
2. Place on trays, sheets or racks for recommended cycle, from 6 to 30 minutes (follow equipment manufacturer’s instructions.)
3. Once cooled, lubricate instruments sparingly.

ULTRASONIC CLEANING

Ultrasonic cleaning of cutting pliers is not recommended—solutions combined with vibrations are very caustic and could dull or damage cutters.

1. If ultrasonic cleaning is chosen, follow equipment manufacturer's recommended immersion schedule.
2. Rinse instruments with high –volume water before sterilizing.
3. Air and towel dry instruments before sterilizing.

COLD STERILIZATION (2% *Glutaraldehyde*)

1. Dry joints thoroughly—air and towel dry.
2. Totally immerse instruments in solution. Sterilization requires 10-hour immersion.
3. Remove instruments from solution and rinse in sterile water. Air dry joints to remove all moisture.
4. Prolonged immersion is not recommended, especially for cutters.
5. Lubricate sparingly.