

Manual: DENTAL REPROCESSING SERVICES
Subject: Environmental Cleaning of the Reprocessing Zone and Associated Equipment

Ref. No: C 19
Issue Date: January 2008
1st Review: April 2010
2nd Review: April 2016
Review due: April 2018
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PURPOSE AND SCOPE

To ensure this very high risk area is cleaned appropriately and the dental practice staff working in the reprocessing zone are aware of the standard of cleanliness expected.

BACKGROUND

The reprocessing/sterilising zone is a very high risk area, the standard or cleanliness is of critical importance to reduce the risk of environmental contamination to articles that are processed in the dental practice.

GENERAL

Routine and special-purpose cleaning must be performed in accordance with the dental practice's policy and good cleaning practice to ensure a clean environment and associated equipment.

Surfaces that could be soiled by blood and body fluids must be impervious and intact.

1. Principles

- All work benches are to be kept free from clutter to allow for effective cleaning.
- All storage containers are to be kept clean, dry and in good condition.
- Draws or containers must be cleaned with detergent periodically and all instruments in the draws must be reprocessed before replacement in draws.
- Work benches are to be wiped over with detergent and water at the beginning of the day, at any time where soiling is evident and at the end of the day.
- All equipment used is to be wiped over daily with detergent and water to remove any marks, fingerprints, dust etc.
- Spot cleaning is to be continuous; all spills are to be dealt with immediately.
- Sinks, benches and horizontal surfaces are to be cleaned daily.
- Floors are to be mopped at the end of the day.
- Damp dusting is recommended for all surfaces.
- Mops and cleaning cloths are to be laundered at the end of every day.
- A cleaning schedule is to be established for non daily cleaning such as wall, vents, doors, ceilings etc. This schedule should be sufficient to ensure the surfaces are never allowed to become dusty, marked or dirty.
- Cleaning audits are to be performed regularly, any non conformance is to be addressed immediately.

Note:

Alcohol wipes are not to be used for cleaning as alcohol is a fixative and will fix proteinaceous material to surfaces.

Dry dusting should not be performed as this will move the dust rather than removing it.

2. Equipment

There must be written procedures for the cleaning of all sterilising and ancillary equipment indicating:

- (a) Method.
- (b) Frequency.
- (c) Manufacturer's instructions.
- (d) Cleaning agents and materials.

3. Waste disposal

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Waste disposal must be in accordance with local regulations.

Waste generated in the reprocessing/sterilisation area must be placed in appropriate containers and must not be transferred from bag-to-bag during collection.

Solid materials must be discarded into appropriate containers and disposed of in accordance with the dental practice policy.

Sharps containers must be provided for disposal of sharp items (e.g. needles, suture blades, single-use endodontic files).

All waste should be removed from the reprocessing area via designated disposal exits.

Note: AS 4031, AS/NZS 4261 should be consulted.

REFERENCES

Standards Australia AS/NZS 4187 2014

Standards Australia (2006) AS/NZS 4815 Office-based health care facilities-Reprocessing of reusable medical, surgical instruments and equipment, and maintenance of the associated environment, Standards Australia, Sydney.

Australian Dental Association (2015), Guidelines for Infection Control Third Edition, Australia, NSW.

Cleaning Standards for Victorian Health Facilities, Victoria Department of Health, 2011