

Simply Teeth dental Practice

Disinfection of dental impressions and impression trays

Dental impressions become contaminated with saliva, blood and oral bacteria . Less commonly they may become contaminated with respiratory pathogens, which are coughed up into the mouth from the lungs. For example, impressions taken on a patient previously diagnosed with tuberculosis were found to harbour the causative agent *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* .

Dental impressions:

All impression must be cleaned and disinfected before being sent to the laboratory.

Wear gloves, mask, goggles /visor

All impressions should be rinsed thoroughly in running water to remove all visible signs of contamination.

Use a disinfectant that is compatible with impression material. Immerse the impression in the disinfectant for the specified time. Avoid spray disinfectants, which are less effective and may create an inhalation risk. Rinse off the disinfectant with water.

Impression trays: Commercially manufactured plastic impression trays are for single patient use only. Do not clean or reprocess then for subsequent reuse.

After single use they should be disposed of as clinical waste by the practice or the dental laboratory.

Metal impression trays are reusable and should be thoroughly cleaned, immersed in an ultrasonic bath or processed in a thermal washer disinfectant and then steam sterilized.