Disinfection Procedures for Alginate Impressions

Choose a disinfectant of iodophor or 5.25% sodium hypochlorite.1,2 Prepare the iodophor solution according to the manufacturer’s label instructions. Prepare the 5.25% sodium hypochlorite solution by diluting 1:10.3

1. Rinse the impression under gently running room temperature tap water and shake off the excess.

2. Spray the impression with the disinfectant of choice. (The most accurate casts were associated with disinfection of alginate impressions by spray rather than by immersion.)4

3. Place the wet impression in a plastic bag, seal, and allow to remain for the amount of contact time recommended by the disinfectant’s manufacturer. (For sodium hypochlorite, minimum contact time is ten minutes.)

4. Remove the impression from the bag and under room temperature water, thoroughly rinse away the disinfectant.

5. Pour as usual. (If, after the disinfection procedure, there will be a delay before pouring, fully immerse the impression in Extend-A-Pour from DUX Dental. It may remain in storage up to two weeks. After removal, rinse and pour as usual.)

To eliminate future “sizing” and the subsequent disinfection of the impression tray, indicate the correct tray size on the patient’s chart.

4. Ibid., pg. 245