

# How to Be Waterline Compliant

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) *Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings – 2003* has provided dental healthcare professionals with well-established scientific basis for dental water safety, focusing on three pillars for dental water safety and compliance.

The American Dental Association (ADA), US Food & Drug Administration (FDA), the Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention (OSAP), and 40 state dental boards support following the CDC guidelines on each of the recommendations detailed below for achieving and verifying safe dental water.



## THIS IS WHAT DENTAL WATER COMPLIANCE LOOKS LIKE:

### 1. Surgery Water

#### A. Sterile Water

#### B. Sterile Delivery Systems

› ADA: "Dental units cannot reliably deliver sterile water even when equipped with independent water reservoirs because the water-bearing pathway cannot be reliably sterilized. Delivery devices (e.g., sterile bulb syringe or single-use disposable products) should be used to deliver sterile water... The CDC defines oral surgical procedures as those that involve the incision, excision, or reflection of tissue that exposes normally sterile areas of the oral cavity."

### 2. Dental Unit Water ( $\leq 500$ CFU/mL)

For all other procedures, dental practices should treat and test the water from dental unit to ensure it meets the EPA standard for potable water ( $\leq 500$  CFU/mL). The following methods are agreed upon as acceptable and beneficial for maintaining dental water quality.

#### A. Use of Chemical Treatments

› ADA, CDC, FDA, & OSAP: Follow dental unit manufacturer recommendations to maintain water quality

#### B. Use of Shock Treatments

› CDC: "Removal or inactivation of biofilm requires chemical germicide" (shock treatment)  
› ADA: No specific mention

#### C. Independent Water Reservoirs (Water Bottles)

› CDC: "methods demonstrated to be effective include self-contained water systems combined with chemical treatment..."

#### D. Flush for 20-30 Seconds

› CDC: Flush water/air lines between patients for "20-30 seconds at a minimum"  
› OSAP: "Flush at the beginning and end of day" (2 minutes)

### 3. Verification of Compliance

Treating dental water is important, but alone does not protect your practice from dental board discipline or legal liability. Practices should keep documentation and records of SOPs, staff trainings, and waterline test results proving their protocol has been effective.

#### A. Regular Monitoring (Testing)

› ADA, CDC, FDA: Follow dental unit & treatment manufacturer recommendations to determine frequency of regular monitoring  
› OSAP: If no manufacturer recommendation is made, test monthly until consecutive passing months, then quarterly  
› OSAP: Request laboratory test using R2A Agar or Filtration methods; if using in-office testing methods, test more frequently

#### B. Standard Operating Procedures & Staff Trainings

› CDC: "DHCP should be trained regarding water quality, biofilm formation, water treatment methods, and appropriate maintenance protocols"

# Waterline Maintenance Recommendations from Manufacturers

The ADA, FDA, CDC, and OSAP suggest consulting with the dental unit and treatment product manufacturers to determine acceptable methods to maintain dental water quality. However, many manufacturers have not caught up with the latest in waterline research and guidelines. In the absence of testing frequency recommendations, OSAP recommends quarterly testing at a minimum.

## DENTAL UNIT MANUFACTURERS

Waterline Recommendations	A-dec	Pelton & Crane	Midmark	Belmont	Ritter	Forest
<b>Shocking</b>	After Failed Test	*Monthly	When Testing Reveals >200 CFU/mL	After Failed Test	Initial, then as Needed	When Testing Reveals >200 CFU/mL
<b>Treatment</b>	ICX Tablet	Tablet or Straw	Straw	-	Tablet	Tablet or Straw
<b>Testing Frequency</b>	Monthly, then Quarterly	*Monthly	Monthly, then Adjust	Monthly, then Quarterly	Monthly, then Adjust	Monthly, then Quarterly
<b>Remediation</b>	Shock & Retest	-	Shock	Shock & Retest	-	Shock

\*Recommendation based on Pelton & Crane's Treatment Aqualiant

## TREATMENT PRODUCT MANUFACTURERS

Waterline IFU's / Recommendations	ProEdge BluTube/BluTab	A-dec ICX	Sterisil Straw	Sterisil Citrisil	Crosstex DentaPure	Crosstex Liquid Ultra
<b>Shocking</b>	8 Weeks to Quarterly	After Failed Test	Initial & After Failed Test	Monthly	Prior to Install	Weekly
<b>Treatment</b>	Every Refill	Every Refill	Every 240L	Every Refill	Every 240L	-
<b>Testing Frequency</b>	Monthly, then Quarterly	Monthly, then Quarterly	As Needed	Appropriate Intervals	Follow All Recommended/ Required Guidance	Regular Testing
<b>Remediation</b>	Shock & Retest	Shock & Retest	Shock	Shock	-	-

"OSAP recommends that monitoring be performed periodically regardless of the product or protocol used to manage dental procedural water quality, even when manufacturer directions for monitoring are absent or unclear... When there are no manufacturer directions available for dental units... OSAP recommends that periodic monitoring and inspection should be performed according to the directions for use provided by the treatment product manufacturer or at least monthly on each dental unit or device... If monitoring results indicate water quality is acceptable for two consecutive monthly cycles, the frequency of testing may be reduced, but should not be less than every three months (p. 11, 17)."

- [Dental Unit Water Quality: Organization for Safety, Asepsis and Prevention White Paper and Recommendations— 2018](#)



THEIR PROTECTION  
YOUR ASSURANCE

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# Managing the Regulatory Environment

## ADA's Guidelines for Practice Success™ (GPS™)

### ADA Do's and Don'ts for Maintaining Dental Unit Water Lines

#### DO'S

- Check with your state's dental board to determine whether it has regulations or standards regarding maintenance of dental unit water lines.
- Make sure staff is trained and knowledgeable about water lines maintenance procedures and any products used.
  - Staff should read product labels for any disinfectants used in dental unit water lines.
  - All clinical staff should know the appropriate water quality for performing routine procedures versus that needed when performing oral-surgical procedures since their requirements do vary.
- Create and use a checklist to help ensure that all steps related to water line safety are being followed.
  - A sample checklist is available through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on page 10 of its resource [Infection Prevention Checklist for Dental Settings: Basic Expectations for Safe Care](#).
- Make sure the practice's water line treatment schedule includes water quality monitoring.
- Follow recommendations for monitoring water quality provided by the manufacturer of the dental unit or waterline treatment product.
  - Many practices use water quality indicators, which are typically easy to use, inexpensive, and provide accurate results.
  - If using the municipal water supply for the dental unit water supply, another option is to use mail-in testing kits which involve shipping water samples to a laboratory for analysis.
- Assign someone on the team the daily responsibility of monitoring local alerts to find out whether any boil water orders have been issued.
- Always follow manufacturers' guidelines for product and equipment set-up, use, cleaning, storage, etc.
  - Change filters and treat water lines with shock treatment according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
- The doctor should always sign the task list as documentation that testing of the water lines occurred.

#### DON'TS

- Don't rely on flushing alone to remove biofilm buildup from water lines.

**Resource:** CDC [Infection Prevention Checklist for Dental Settings: Basic Expectations for Safe Care](#)

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## To Our Valued Customers:

Henry Schein Dental recognizes that you are facing unprecedented challenges due to COVID-19. In addition to creating a resource site where you can access information on COVID-19, we have also created this checklist you can follow if you choose to temporarily close your dental office. Following these recommended items will help protect the investment you have made in your office.

## Before You Leave Your Office Check List:

### Mechanical Room

- ☐ Turn off nitrous units including shut-off valves on all tanks.
- ☐ Confirm that vacuum is powered off, but electricity is still supplied to vacuum system, some brands perform periodic cycles.
- ☐ Shut down power to air compressor so unit doesn't run while out.
- ☐ Amalgam separator – if new cartridge available, swap out to avoid particles hardening.
- ☐ If office is not equipped with main master water shutoff valve, shut off water inlet valve to vacuum pump by hand.

### Operator

- ☐ Clean chairside vacuum traps and replace screens.
- ☐ Run recommended vacuum cleaner through lines.
- ☐ Clean and lubricate all valves and O-rings in HVE and saliva ejectors.
- ☐ Perform shock treatment on delivery system water lines and flush system following guidelines from the manufacturer.
- ☐ Remove and empty all self-contained water bottles, and flush lines until empty and free of water.
- ☐ If office is not equipped with main master water shutoff valve, shut off water valves by hand at foot of chair.
- ☐ Remove and clean slow speeds and motors from delivery unit hoses.
- ☐ Remove all handpieces, lubricate and sterilize.
- ☐ Turn off all power to dental units.

Henry Schein Dental's goal is to partner with you during this time and when business returns to normal, we look forward to continuing to work closely with you as you deliver dental care to your patients.

If your office remains open for routine or emergency care, our Technical Service Team is available to you should the need for technical service arise. To submit a technical service request, you can email [servicerequests@henryschein.com](mailto:servicerequests@henryschein.com) with your office details and what is needed and a Team Schein Member will contact you to schedule.

**The COVID-19 resource site may be accessed at: [www.henryschein.com/COVID19update](http://www.henryschein.com/COVID19update)**

### CAD/CAM

- ☐ Perform manufacturer recommended cleaning procedure for mill, and unplug unit and empty out water tray (if applicable).

### Technology

- ☐ Run or perform a backup of server.
- ☐ Turn off computer peripherals such as scanners, speakers and desktop printers.
- ☐ Do Not Turn Off
  - Fax machines
  - Phones
  - Servers and backup drive systems
  - Security systems

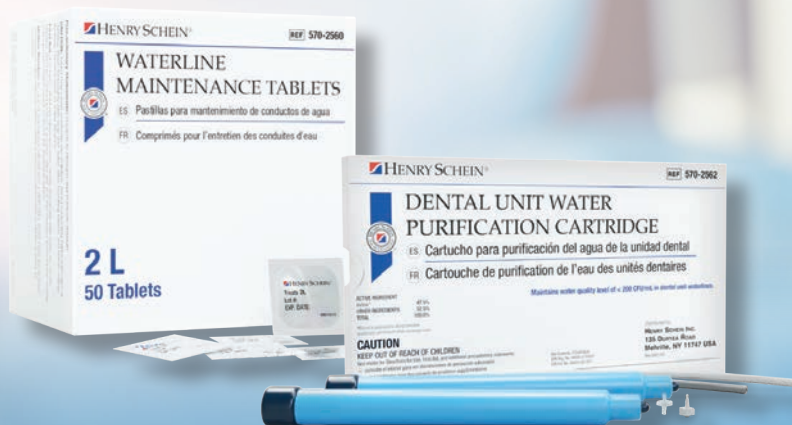
### Sterilization – Lab

- ☐ Follow manufacturer recommended cleaning on sterilizers.
- ☐ Drain all sterilizer water reservoirs – If possible suction out reservoirs where needed with HVE.
- ☐ Unplug sterilizers to avoid any power surges.
- ☐ Run water through model trimmer to avoid plaster buildup, flush extra water through drain, and hand shut-off water inlet valve.
- ☐ Drain ultrasonic cleaner and remove any instruments.

### Imaging

- ☐ Turn off all x-rays and unplug conebeam/panoramic units.
- ☐ Remove all hand held x-ray batteries from charging cradles.

# WATERLINE DISINFECTION



HIGH QUALITY WATERLINE PROTECTION  
AT GREAT VALUE

**NEW** Henry Schein® Dental Unit Water Purification Cartridges and Waterline Maintenance Tablets

KEEP PRACTICES SAFE AND COMPLIANT WITH CDC AND ADA STANDARDS.

## DENTAL UNIT WATERLINE TREATMENT PRODUCTS

Henry Schein® Dental Unit Water Purification Cartridge

2 Cartridges/Box 570-2562

Henry Schein® Waterline Maintenance Tablets (50 Tablets/Box)

2L 570-2560 | 750mL 570-2561



# WATERLINE DISINFECTION



## HIGH QUALITY WATERLINE PROTECTION

**NEW** Henry Schein® Waterline Maintenance Tablets help practices exceed the ADA and CDC standards for clean water by 50x.

TRUST OUR EASY-TO-USE TABLETS FOR RELIABLE SAFETY AND COMPLIANCE.

### DENTAL UNIT WATERLINE MAINTENANCE TABLETS

#### ADVANTAGES

- **Compliant** - Tablets exceed the ADA and CDC standards for clean water by 50X, maintaining 10 CFU/mL or less, when used as instructed.
- **Easy to Use** - Simply place a tablet in your empty dental unit waterline bottle every time you refill it.
- **Effective** - Tablets may be left in waterlines overnight and for extended periods of non-use. They have been shown to be effective for up to 28 days.
- **Safe, Odorless, and Tasteless** - Tested for no ill-effect on bonding or equipment.

50 Tablets/Box   2L 570-2560 | 750mL 570-2561

# WATERLINE DISINFECTION



## HIGH QUALITY WATERLINE PROTECTION

**NEW** Henry Schein® Dental Unit Water Purification Cartridge two-cartridge system treats waterlines with 40% greater power when compared to single-cartridge systems.

EASILY KEEP YOUR PRACTICE SAFE AND COMPLIANT.

### DENTAL UNIT WATER PURIFICATION CARTRIDGE

#### FEATURED ADVANTAGE

Our dual cartridge system's total active antimicrobial released over the course of 1 year (or 240L) is 40% more than traditional single cartridge systems.

This means practices can achieve improved water test results plus more consistent compliance with CDC and ADA drinking water standards (i.e.,  $\leq 500$  CFU/mL of heterotrophic water bacteria).

#### ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

- **Complimentary Reusable Dummy Straw** (Never shock through a cartridge. It will ruin it.)
- **Convenient Replacement Indicators** - Kit includes two 6-month automatic replacement indicators that act as a visual reminder for when to replace or reorder.
- **Simple Instructions** - Installs in minutes and can be used with tap or distilled water.
- **Safe for Patient Contact** - Non-toxic, non-allergenic, and non-corrosive.

2 Cartridges/Box 570-2562