



our Sterilizing Procedures

A dental practice is like a mini-hospital. We perform many types of surgery every day, from simple tooth cleaning & fillings, to complex implant procedures. Because of this, we work hard to ensure that bacteria & viruses are not passed between our patients and our dental team. This is done by following strict, modern infection control procedures that include cleanliness & sterilizing practices.

- every instrument that is used to treat a patient is sterilized before it is used again. This is done in a separate sterilizing room.
- If something can't be sterilized, we use a disposable instrument that is thrown away after one use. A good example is the tips used for anaesthetic injections; these are strictly single-use only.
- used instruments are first rinsed, then soaked in disinfectant in a special container.
- sterilization is then done using a professional autoclave, a sophisticated computerized machine that bakes instruments in steam & pressure at 135oC for several minutes. The autoclave then dries the instruments, which are sealed inside special sterilizing pouches.
- surfaces which are commonly touched in our operating areas (bench tops, seats, lights etc) are covered in disposable plastic films, which are replaced for each patient. By throwing away the film, we also throw away the germs that may have landed on these surfaces.
- all working surfaces are thoroughly cleaned & disinfected after each patient. Then new plastic film is placed on these surfaces, and a fresh set of sterile instruments is put out for the next patient.
- any materials that are used during treatment (eg filling materials) are prepared using fresh gloves, in an area that is some distance from the actual operating zone. Any prepared material which is unused during treatment is thrown away.
- you may notice your care providers wash their hands a few times during your appointment. They will also wear single-use surgical gloves, face masks & protective eyewear. This is all done to prevent the transfer of germs

We take cleanliness & sterility very seriously - it is an essential part of a modern, caring dental practice.

Please feel free to ask your dentist if you have any questions about our procedures.