

**Purpose:** A dental instrument sharpening card is a non-porous metal card impregnated with evenly distributed diamond dust particles to create an abrasive surface for sharpening. Based on best practice in infection prevention and control as well as health and safety, a sterilized instrument should be sharpened then re-processed and sterilized again prior to use. The dangers of sharpening a contaminated instrument are sharps injury and risk for cross contamination. Depending on geographical areas, regulations may vary for chairside sharpening.

**Directions for use:** Dental instruments can be sharpened with the same sharpening techniques and principles as porous stones. While wearing the proper PPE, the instrument can be sharpened dry or with a slight amount of water. Oil is not recommended. After sharpening, the instrument needs to be cleaned properly to ensure no metal fillings remain on the blade. Follow the MIFU of the instrument for reprocessing. The sharpening card can be cleaned manually or mechanically, rinsed, dried and packaged for sterilization. In the event of chairside sharpening, the card must be sterilized prior to the next use.

**Sterilization:** Steam sterilize for a minimum of 4 minutes at 270°F/132°C or 30 minutes at 250°F/121°C. Allow 15-30 minutes dry time. Do not heat above 350°F / 177°C. Care must be taken after sterilization as the metal card will be extremely hot. Do not sharpen an instrument on a hot metal sharpening card. It is possible to observe some color changes in the metal of the card which renders no defect to the card.

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