

Proper Cleaning of Insert Tips for the Cavitron Ultrasonic Scaler (1/02)

Periodically, DECS is asked how the insert tips for the Cavitron brand of ultrasonic scalers (Dentsply Professional Division) should be cleaned prior to packaging and sterilization. Specifically, people want to know if they can clean the tips by processing them through a thermal disinfectant (such as those from Miele, Steris, and Getinge/Castle)



without damaging them. This is an important question because ultrasonic scaler tips usually come into contact with blood and saliva during subgingival scaling. Since contaminants should always be removed from instruments prior to sterilization, knowing the proper way to do this is important. The Dentsply Professional Division's recommendation is to not process the tips through a thermal disinfectant.

The reason given by Dentsply is that the company has not conducted testing to determine if processing in these units has an adverse effect on the insert tips. As an alternative, Dentsply recommends rinsing the tips under water to remove gross debris prior to sterilization. **Other pre-sterilization procedures, such as using an ultrasonic cleaner, will void the Cavitron tip warranty.** Please note that personnel who perform this task should wear proper personal protective equipment such as a mask, gown, heavy-duty utility gloves, and protective eyewear.