

WedgeWands (Project 03-20) (1/04)

The direct restoration of posterior teeth with amalgam or composite relies on the adequate use of wedges to maintain the contour and seal of the matrix band and to provide separation of the teeth to achieve a sufficient proximal contact. Garrison Dental Solutions recently introduced WedgeWands as an alternative to traditional wooden wedges for operative dentistry. WedgeWands are anatomically-contoured, disposable, plastic wedges attached to plastic handles (wands) that may be placed without using an instrument. The angle of the wedges can be adjusted by bending the neck area where the wedge meets the wand, allowing their placement in various locations in the oral cavity. The wedges have a curved underside and contoured sides that are designed to leave room for the interproximal papilla and enable the wedges to more intimately adapt to the interproximal contours of the teeth. The wedges also have a slightly upturned tip that prevents them from inadvertently piercing the soft tissues and rubber dam during placement. Following placement, the handle is twisted to separate it from the wedge. The wedge's textured base purportedly makes it easy to remove using cotton forceps or a hemostat. The wedges come in three color-coded sizes (small, medium, large) and can be purchased individually according to size or as an assortment kit.



Manufacturer:

Garrison Dental Solutions
(888) 437-0032
(616) 842-2244
(616) 842-2430 FAX
www.garrisondental.com

Suggested Retail Price:

\$57.00 Complete Kit (item number WK1), includes:
- 100 each of small, medium, and large

Government Price:

Same as retail

ADVANTAGES:

- + Disposable wand allows placement without a forcep
- + Contoured shape for more intimate interproximal adaptation
- + Available in three sizes

DISADVANTAGES:

- Wand difficult to remove after wedge placement
- Expensive

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS:

WedgeWands are an alternative to traditional wooden wedges in restorative dentistry. WedgeWands are anatomically-contoured, disposable, plastic wedges attached to a plastic wand that allows placement of the wedges in various locations in the oral cavity. The wedges have a curved underside and contoured sides that are designed to leave room for the interproximal papilla and enable the wedges to more intimately adapt to the interproximal contours of the teeth. However, WedgeWands are relatively expensive and following placement, the wand is difficult to separate from the wedge. Because of the questionable-handling characteristics and availability of more cost-effective alternatives, **WedgeWands** are rated **Marginal** for use by the federal dental services.

UPDATE After the completion of the clinical-user evaluation, DIS received a notice from the manufacturer recommending the bending of the wedges 90 degrees before placement to fatigue the plastic and permit easier removal of the wand.