



# THE DENTIST'S ENVIRONMENTAL INFECTION CONTROL CHECKLIST

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A Complete Checklist for Dentists  
and Dental Office Managers



# Dental Checklist

In the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, where dental settings were one of the highest risk environments for exposure to and spread of the coronavirus, dental practices are working to improve infection control within their offices and operatories. Innovative technologies, like UV-C light treatment platforms and environmental treatment systems, are helping to improve the levels of infection prevention and control in dental settings, but these technologies are not a single-source solution.



This dental infection control checklist is designed to help your dental practice develop and maintain successful environmental infection prevention methods, even as you implement technologies like the ones developed by UV Angel that treat both the air and surfaces; the UV Angel Clean Air and the UV Angel Adapt.

Use this checklist to guide the procedure development necessary for effective environmental control, to ensure you have the products and tools necessary to properly treat, disinfect, and sterilize, and to help keep your team on track with regular per-patient, daily, and weekly infection prevention and control tasks.

## Before You Start Cleaning & Disinfecting Your Dental Office

Before your dental office can follow the regular cleaning & disinfection task checklists we've developed below, you must first have proper environmental infection control procedures in place, and supply your dentistry with the appropriate disinfectants and sterilization tools. Use the following checklists to guide policy and procedure development, and to ensure your dentistry has the appropriate disinfectants and sterilization tools on hand.



## Dental Environment Infection Control Procedures and Policies to Have In Place

At a minimum, your dental office should have the following procedures and policies in place for proper environmental infection control:

Procedures for the routine cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces.

Procedures indicate which dental healthcare personnel (DHCP) should perform environmental prevention procedures.

All DHCP performing infection control procedures have received job-specific training regarding proper infection prevention and control management upon hire when procedures or policies change, and at least annually.

DHCP have access to all appropriate PPE, as well as training regarding what and how to appropriately don, wear, and doff PPE to prevent exposure to infectious agents or chemicals.

Regularly monitor and evaluate all cleaning, disinfection, and use of surface barrier procedures to ensure they are consistently and correctly performed.

Dental office has procedures in place for decontamination of spills of blood or other bodily fluids.

## Disinfectants & Environmental Treatment Tools and Technologies to Have at Your Dental Office

The following list outlines the types of disinfectants and sterilization tools your dental office needs to have on hand to enforce the required dental environment infection control procedures and policies mentioned above.

### Disinfectants

- High-level disinfectants are required to process critical and semi-critical dental instruments. Any high-level disinfectant in your dental office must be FDA approved.

## Disinfectants Continued

- Intermediate-level and low-level surface disinfectants are required for regular disinfection of clinical contact surfaces as well as housekeeping surfaces in dental offices.
- All disinfectants used at your dental office must be:
  - **EPA-Registered.** Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval is required. EPA-approved labels specify the disinfectant's EPA registration number, technical and safety information, indications for use, and approved efficacy claims.
  - **Hospital-level.** Your surface disinfectant must have hospital-efficacy claims, as defined by the EPA.
  - **Labeled as effective against HIV/HBV or TB.** Surface disinfectants used in dental settings must list label claims against human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and hepatitis B virus (HBV), or Mycobacterium bovis (TB).

## Environmental Treatment Technologies

- **Automated Continuous UV-C Air Treatment System.** UV-C air purification systems work to reduce bacteria and fungus in the air, neutralizing harmful pathogens and aerosols. Incorporating an air treatment system helps reduce exposure to harmful pathogens while providing peace of mind.



- **UV-C Surface Pathogen Control System.** The spread of contamination is most likely in high-touch areas like keyboards and workstations. UV-C light treatment platforms can continuously monitor and treat those high-touch surfaces, neutralizing bacteria, fungi, and viruses at a cellular level and at rates greater than 99%.

## Environmental Treatment Technologies

- **Ultrasonic cleaner or washer.** Dental instruments must be cleaned before they can be properly sterilized. Your dentistry may use either an ultrasonic cleaner, which passes sound waves through a solution to shake debris loose, or an automated instrument washer.
- **Autoclave.** Once dental instruments are dry and packaged in an autoclave wrap, they should be sterilized in an autoclave.

# Before You Start Cleaning & Disinfecting Your Dental Office

With procedures, tools, and disinfectants in place, you have everything you need to enforce proper dental environment infection control. Here are a few task lists to help your staff stick to regular infection control protocol on a per-patient, daily, and weekly basis.



## After Each Patient Leaves the Operatory

Dental operatories should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected by a DHCP between each patient to ensure proper infection prevention and control. While UV-C environmental systems like UV Angel Air will work to neutralize microorganisms in the air, it's still important to disinfect high-contact surfaces.

Each of these tasks should be completed after a patient leaves the operatory and before a new patient enters. Your infection prevention and control procedure should indicate who is responsible for completing these tasks.

DHCP should don new gloves, face mask, goggles, and any additional necessary PPE

Remove all reusable dental tools, clean, and heat sterilize

Discard all single-use devices

Remove and replace all surface barriers used to protect clinical contact surfaces

Clean and disinfect all surfaces, including the following, with an EPA-registered hospital disinfectant:

- Patient chair
- Dental light and arm
- X-ray equipment
- Drawer handles
- Cabinet and doorknobs
- Faucets and sinks
- Any additional hard surfaces

## Daily Cleaning Task List

At least once a day, either before patients arrive, or after the office is closed, complete these daily cleaning tasks to ensure the dental office is properly cleaned and disinfected. These tasks should be completed in addition to regular operatory cleanings after each patient.

Your dental infection control procedure should indicate who is responsible for daily cleaning tasks, and when these tasks should be completed. Regular cleanings are essential to effective infection control.

### Reception, Waiting Room, and Operatories

Vacuum or sweep all floors (especially during the coronavirus pandemic, a vacuum with high-level or HEPA filter is recommended.)

Disinfect tables and doorknobs, including cabinet doors and handles

Disinfect frequently used items including:

- Phones
- Pens
- Staplers
- Copy machine
- Computer keyboards and mice

Empty waste bins and put in new liners

Wipe down all hard surfaces

Check and refill soap dispensers

Check and refill paper towel

### Bathrooms

Disinfect all hard surfaces — toilets, doorknobs, faucet knobs, etc.

Sanitize and wipe away any residual water on the sink counter

Refill soap and paper towels if necessary

Sweep and mop floors if dirty

Take out the trash and put in new liners

# Weekly Cleaning Task List

Many dental offices hire a cleaning service to complete deeper cleaning tasks on a weekly basis. Your cleaning crew should complete this list at least once a week in addition to the daily cleaning task list.

If you do not have a cleaning crew, your dental infection control procedure should indicate who is responsible for completing weekly cleaning tasks.



## Reception, Waiting Room, and Operatories:

Sweep, mop, or vacuum all floors (Use vacuum with a high-level or HEPA filter when possible.)

Dust, wipe and disinfect all surfaces

Straighten up, dust, and clean any office furniture

## Bathrooms

Mop and disinfect all floors

Disinfect and wipe down all hard surfaces

Clean toilets, sinks, and counters

Disinfect doorknobs and faucet knobs

Wipe mirrors

Refill soap, paper towel, and toilet paper dispensers

Take out the trash and put in new liners



When your dental office uses this checklist to keep track of regular environment infection control tasks in combination with superior UV-C treatment systems, your staff and your patients can rest assured knowing they are entering the safest environment possible.