



Dental Unit Waterlines

Biofilms are microbial communities that form on the walls of the urethane and vinyl tubing that delivers water from the dental delivery system into the oral cavity during most dental procedures.

The only regulatory requirements for dental unit water lines are found in the infection control rules of the California Dental Board. The rules state, "At the beginning of each workday, dental unit water lines shall be purged with air or flushed with water for at least two minutes prior to attaching handpieces, scalers or other devices." The rules also state, "Waterlines shall be flushed between each patient for a minimum of 20 seconds." (This procedure does not remove biofilms from the water lines.)

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends additional approaches for limiting or preventing biofilm

formation. These recommendations include chemical treatment regimens, UV water purifiers, antimicrobial filters and self contained water systems.

Mint-A-Kleen from Anodia Systems, has been the leader in addressing water line concerns for over 15 years. Proven effective, easy to use and cost efficient.

Nightly use of Mint-A-Kleen will ensure that morning water quality will begin near Zero CFU (Colony Forming Units) and that the total Heterotrophic Plate Counts should remain below the ADA recommended threshold of 200 CFU during the workday.

For additional information, see page 5 of the Parts Warehouse "Tenth Anniversary Edition" catalog or visit www.mintakleen.com. A complete line of self contained water systems can be found on page 30.



May Special

The C-1310 fluid dispenser makes a great self-contained reservoir system for ultrasonic and piezo scaler units. This device is operated by a 1/4" female quick disconnect. Provides an easy method to supply medicated solutions through the scaler to the oral cavity. See page 30 of the current Parts Warehouse catalog.

Through May 31st: receive an additional 15% discount off retail price. Order three or more and receive an additional 25% discount off retail price.

Tech Tip:

The dental service industry is known for creating its own terminology. Often this causes a little confusion.

Handpiece Hangers versus Accessory Hangers:

Most **handpiece hangers** operate using a normally closed pneumatic valve. When the handpiece is removed from the holder the air pressure going to the control block is turned off and any residual air between the block and hanger valve is exhausted to atmosphere. The handpiece is now ready to operate when the foot control is activated. Returning the handpiece to the holder turns the control air on to the block and that pressure keeps the handpiece from operating if the foot control is activated.



Accessory hangers operate in just the reverse, using a normally open pneumatic valve. The pneumatic valve in the hanger is off while the accessory is seated in the hanger. No air is flowing through the valve. When the accessory is removed from the hanger, the valve allows air to flow to a valve, air electric switch, or other control device. A common use for an accessory hanger is to turn on and off vacuum pumps or scaler controls. In some applications accessory hangers utilize a small electric switch rather than a pneumatic valve. Handpiece and Accessory Hangers are on pages 11, 12 and 13 of the Parts Warehouse catalog.

