[Name of Dental Practice] [How to use templates](https://www.psm.sdcep.org.uk/templates/how-to-use-templates/)

[Date]

# Decontamination Methods for Instruments Used in This Practice

A list of decontamination methods used for different types of reusable items used in the practice should be maintained for reference.

The examples in the table below are not comprehensive. Amend as appropriate for your practice.

The decontamination methods used for different categories of instruments are detailed below.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Instruments** | **Decontamination Method** |
| Routine conservation instrument kits  | * Checked to confirm that items are clear of set adherent materials such as cements. If present, this needs to be removed, possibly manually, prior to processing in the washer disinfector;
* Clean by processing in the washer disinfector;
* Inspect after cleaning;
* Sterilize.
 |
| Routine surgical equipment and kits  | * Check prior to cleaning for heavy soil. If required, pre-clean using ultrasonic cleaner or immerse and agitate in cold water;
* Clean by processing in the washer disinfector;
* Inspect after cleaning;
* Sterilize.
 |
| Handpieces  | [NB: Consult individual handpiece manufacturers’ instructions] * Clean external surfaces using detergent;
* Do not submerge;
* Do not process in ultrasonic cleaner;
* Clean using a washer disinfector if the handpiece manufacturer recommends;
* Lubricate as per manufacturer’s instructions;
* Inspect after cleaning;
* Sterilize.
 |
| Other re-usable items | * As per manufacturer’s instructions.
 |
| Single-use items | * Do not reuse if marked with Single Use Symbol;
* Dispose of in the correct waste stream according to practice waste management policy.
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Covered, clean and dry storage facilities are required for all items. Refer to the [SHTM 01-05 Part C: Process](https://www.nss.nhs.scot/publications/management-equipment-and-process-of-the-decontamination-of-dental-instruments-in-a-local-decontamination-unit-ldu-in-nhsscotland-shtm-01-05/) for more detailed information.