



## Cleaning and Disinfecting Articulators and Face-bows

These instructions are intended to provide you with general guidelines for proper cleaning, disinfecting and sterilization of Whip Mix Articulator and Face-bow medical devices. Individual work centers may supersede the instructions provided. Specific brand names for cleaning and disinfection material are left up to the discretion of individual work centers.

The guidelines for cleaning articulator and face-bow medical devices follow the CDC recommendations from the 2003, “**Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health Care Settings**”. Under the heading “**Sterilization And Disinfection of Patient-Care items**” patient-care items (dental instruments, devices and equipment) are categorized as critical, semi-critical or non-critical.

**Critical** items used to penetrate soft tissue or bone have the greatest risk of transmitting infection and should be sterilized by heat.

**Semi-critical** items touch mucous membranes or non-intact skin and have a lower risk of transmission; because the majority of semi-critical items in dentistry are heat-tolerant, they also should be sterilized by using heat. If a semi-critical item is heat sensitive, it should be, at a minimum processed with a high-level disinfection. **Non-critical** items pose the least risk of transmission of infection, contacting only intact skin, which can serve as an effective barrier to microorganisms.

**According to this guideline only the face-bow bite fork is categorized as semi-critical. All other parts of the articulator and face-bow are categorized as non-critical.**

We recommended the following for disinfecting and sterilization of Whip Mix Articulator and Face-bow devices;

### CLEANING/DISINFECTION

If there are any debris on the devices be sure to remove the debris before the cleaning process. Use a soft bristle brush and cold running water to remove any debris. After debris removal follow the below guidelines.

## Articulator

- Use mild soap and water solution with the aid of a soft bristle brush to dissolve accumulations of wax and to wash away carborundum grit then air dry completely. DO NOT use strong detergents, alkalis, gasoline or naphtha as cleaning agents.
- Remove excess stone to prevent corrosion of articulator surfaces.
- **(Whip Mix Branded only)** Apply a light coating of silicone spray to articulator surface to prevent plaster or stone from sticking.
- **(Hanau and Denar only)** A thin coating of petroleum jelly must be applied to all articulator surfaces that will be contacted by the gypsum mounting material.
- Lubricate working and bearing components with a thin film of lubricant (Whip Mix Lubriplate) or silicone to the surface upon which the condylar elements move to provide a smooth action during movements.



- **Clean using the purest form of water available. Use a Hospital Grade Enzymatic Detergent to clean the device. Rinse water should be bacterial free and contain no endotoxins.**
- Use Sterile lint-free cloth to dry
- Follow the manufacturers' direction for using their product.

## Face-bows

- Clean and properly disinfect the face-bow apparatus before each use. A finger cot placed over each earpiece will help facilitate proper disinfection of the face-bow.
- **Clean using the purest form of water available. Use a Hospital Grade Enzymatic Detergent to clean the device. Rinse water should be bacterial free and contain no endotoxins.**
- Use Sterile lint-free cloth to dry
- Follow the manufacturers' direction for using their product.

### STERILIZATION

Sterilizing equipment, methods, and parameters vary greatly from facility to facility therefore Whip Mix Corporation cannot guarantee sterility of our Dental Devices, but using the below guidelines should provide sterility for the bite fork, vertical shaft, and ear pieces.

If there is any debris on the device be sure to remove the debris before the sterilization process using the cleaning and disinfecting guidelines above.

- The bite fork, shaft and earpieces are the components of the face-bow that should be sterilized before each use.
- **(Denar branded Face-bows only)** The black finger screws and the spacers should be removed from the Shaft Assembly before autoclaving. Do not autoclave the bow with level attached.

The Metal bite fork and vertical shaft can be sterilized in an autoclave. We recommend cold sterilization for the earpieces using a cold chemical sterilant. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.

### Bite fork and shaft Sterilization parameters

Type of Sterilizer	Load Configuration	Temperature	Time
Gravity Displacement	Nonporous items only	132°C (270°F)	3 minutes
Prevacuum Dynamic-Air-removal	Nonporous items only	132°C (270°F)	3 minutes