

# TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL IMPRESSIONS

Taking an impression is one of the most important procedures in dentistry and it is critical to achieve an exceptional restoration. We need an excellent “foundation” on which to build. We have put together a list of tips to help you take a great impression, which will ensure the best restoration possible:

## **TIP**

Use a metal tray or a stiff plastic tray for the impression.

## **REASON**

If the tray can be easily flexed with finger pressure, the impression material will likely flex during setting and yield a distorted impression.

## **TIP**

Use a custom tray for patients that may need one for the impression.

## **REASON**

Properly constructed custom trays help take impressions with over five times more dimensional accuracy than stock trays (Note: Custom trays should be made at least a day in advance, since most tray acrylic undergoes shrink polymerization within that period of time).

## **TIP**

Use tray adhesive on all impression trays, even for those with perforations.

## **REASON**

With adhesive, the polymerization shrinkage is toward the tray instead of toward the center of the mass.

## **TIP**

We do not recommend using fast set for your crown and bridge impressions (use it for opposing impressions).

## **REASON**

With the fast set, the wash is already polymerizing before the tray is even loaded, causing them to set at different rates.

## **TIP**

Be aware of the effects of the sulfur compounds on Latex gloves.

## **REASON**

Sulfur found on Latex gloves inhibits the set of many impression materials. Sulfur contamination can be avoided by: 1) removing gloves and washing hands before molding putty, 2) using vinyl gloves, 3) using vinyl over-glove and 4) not touching the teeth with the gloves.

## **TIP**

Time all impressions, based on manufacturer’s suggested time, plus one minute.

## **REASON**

The extra minute helps prevent tearing of the margins during removal.

## **TIP**

Do not have your patient hold the impression.

## **REASON**

Firm, consistent pressure needs to be maintained after placement by a trained hand.

## **TIP**

Disinfect the impressions before sending to the lab.

## **REASON**

To comply with CDC standards, all materials (e.g., impressions, stone models, appliances) need to be disinfected properly with an EPA-registered hospital disinfectant before sending to laboratory for the safety of laboratory employees.

## **TIP**

Check the expiration date of the impression material.

## **REASON**

Expired impression material will often function abnormally and will not set properly.

## **TIP**

Keep mix tip of the impression material submerged in the material while filling the tray.

## **REASON**

Air bubbles can be formed when the syringe tip is in the open and lead to voids in the margin area.

## **TIP**

Use a full arch tray when restoring any more than one posterior tooth.

## **REASON**

This allows us to see the entire arch of the opposing teeth and how they fit together, allowing for a better restoration.

## **TIP**

Assistant loading tray material should occur at the same time doctor is injecting around the prep.

## **REASON**

If the tray is loaded too far in advance, the material will begin setting and force the wash material away from the margins.

## **TIP**

With “gaggers,” use a custom tray with open palate, a quadrant tray or a lower tray for upper impressions.

## **REASON**

These techniques will make it easier to keep impression material away from the soft palate.

# SHIPPING GUIDELINES

Proper care in packing your case for shipping plays a significant role in the quality of the case and service we can provide. Broken models can result in ill-fitting prosthetics which means a new impression and an inconvenience to you and your patient.

## FOLLOW THESE STEPS WHEN SENDING YOUR CASES TO THE LABORATORY TO ENSURE A SAFE DELIVERY:

1. Place all impressions and bites in the Biohazard bag provided and seal.
2. Place RX and/or any other documents in the separate pocket on the outside of the bio bag. If you do not have bio bags with outside pockets, please place paperwork in a separate bag.
3. Additional bubble wrap should be added to fill the box to avoid movement and possible breakage during shipping.
4. When shipping an articulator and facebow:
  - (a) Remove models from articulator and wrap individually OR
  - (b) If models remain on the articulator, please separate the articulator. Each piece should then be wrapped individually and anchored in the box. The facebow and other enclosures should be wrapped separately.
5. Shipping loose crowns, bridges, implant parts and/or shade tabs: Place in a separate small container or sealed plastic bag and wrap separately to avoid loss or breakage.
6. Any photos or slides that accompany the case should be placed in a plastic bag for protection.
7. Reference the item(s) you are sending on the checklist section of the Rx.
8. Call for pick-up and delivery options.

## HELP US PROTECT YOUR CASES

If you are in need of supplies, please contact us at anytime for replenishment.