

Ask Dental Purity™ ...

Is distilled water just for autoclaves?

Distilled water is for much more than autoclaves. Distilled water is a valuable tool for dentists, yet many dentists don't fully realize how important distilled water is in a wide variety of uses around the office.

First of all, let's take a look at what distilled water is. In the distillation process, tap water undergoes prolonged boiling, which kills bacteria and other biological contaminants. Then the pure steam rises and is separated and cooled back down into liquid water. The contaminants that were in the boiling tank are simply drained away. The result is water that has been boiled, sterilized and purified.

Here are some of the uses for distilled water in a dental office...

AUTOCLAVES: You should only use distilled water in autoclaves. The use of tap water in autoclaves greatly increases the amount of cleaning needed, increases the amount of cleaning chemicals used and can reduce the lifespan of the autoclave. This has been such a problem with autoclave manufacturers that they have now started to install purity sensors that don't allow the machine to operate if distilled water is not used. If you don't have an autoclave that forces you to use distilled water, you will soon.

DENTAL UNITS & HANDPIECES: Since dental units and handpieces are very susceptible to bacteria and biofilm contamination, it's vital that only distilled water be introduced to dental units. The unfortunate fact is that there are numerous cases of biological contamination of tap water across the country each year. For patient safety, dangerous water borne pathogens such as E. Coli, cryptosporidium, giardia and others must not be introduced to the dental unit water lines. Using distilled water is only the first step though. You should still use sterilization tablets to kill any bacteria existing in the lines.

ULTRASONIC CLEANERS: For best results ultrasonic cleaners should be used with only distilled water.

FOUNTAINS: While not crucial for patient safety, many dental offices now have a waterfall fountain in their lobby. If you don't use distilled water in these fountains you will most likely have ugly hardness build-up and increased maintenance. Distilled water is definitely the best way to go.

AQUARIUMS: Fish, who live in water, can be greatly affected by water with high levels of chlorine or ammonia; chemical used in some tap water treatment plants. A certain pH value is needed in tank water for fish to have a proper living environment. Also, poor quality water can be more prone to 'bad' algae. Check with your aquarium retailer for specifics.

DRINKING WATER: Freshly made distilled water (as opposed to water stored in the low quality plastic bottles) tastes fantastic. Since it's free of the dangerous chemicals that are increasingly common in our tap water it's great for you.

Visit us on-line at www.DentalPurity.com

or call us today at 1-800-617-2401

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