

Sharpening Stone Maintenance

Wedge Stone- The wedge stone is a rectangular-shaped stone with rounded edges.

Stone Care- After each use, stones should be wiped with a clean cloth to remove metal particles. Alternate the areas used for sharpening to prevent ‘grooving’ in the stone.

Stone Lubrication- Stones may be lubricated with water or used dry.

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iM3 Wedge Dental Sharpening Stone

Why Sharpen?

Instruments should be kept sharp and true to their original design. Dental procedures are most effective when using sharp instruments because they reduce fatigue, improve deposit removal, save time and improve tactile sensitivity.

When to Sharpen

Repeated use of an instrument wears away minute particles of metal from the blade causing the cutting edge to take on a rounded shape resulting in a dull, ineffective blade.

When a blade is dull, the clinician loses the ability to ‘feel’ the sharp edge ‘grabbing’ onto a surface. It may then seem that the blade is ‘sliding’ over the surface or deposit which causes the clinician to work harder to remove deposits.

For best results, instruments should be sharpened lightly after each use.

Curettes & Scalers

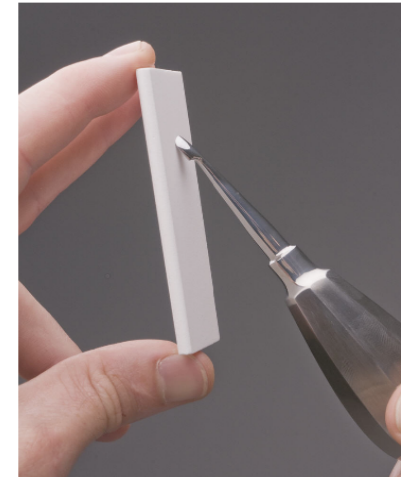
These are sharpened on either side of the stone using the curve that best suits their shape. Use a back and forth and a rotating movement of the stone to sharpen the face of the instrument.

Elevators

These are sharpened on the flat surface of the stone. The elevator is held in the hand with the index finger just behind the tip. Look for the cutting surface on the winged elevator end and place it flat against the stone at the same angle (indicated below). In the case of the winged elevators pictured to the angle is less than 45 degrees.



The winged elevator tip is placed flat against the sharpening stone.



The picture above shows the angle of the instrument against the sharpening stone.

Hold the elevator still in position against the stone and maintaining the angle move the stone upward, repeating the process 2-3 times. This will sharpen the cutting edge of the instrument.

The same process applies to hand scalers and normal elevators (not winged). Simply look for the cutting surface of the instrument and place it flat against the sharpening stone. The curved surface of the stone can also be used to remove dag's from the curved surface of the elevators or to sharpen the inside curve of scalers and curettes.