

How effective is the sterilization process at your dentist?

Sterilization in the dental office usually involves the use of a steam pressure device called an autoclave. This device, the same one used in hospital operating rooms, kills by a combination of heat and pressure (via steam). Sterilization is a process designed to kill all germs (bacteria, viruses, etc.). Because we can't actually test whether all microbes are killed during the sterilization process, the next best thing is to determine whether the process kills the most resistant microbe. For that reason, we use bacterial spores provided by an independent laboratory.

These spore packets are sterilized and mailed (these spores are not toxic to humans) to an independent agency. There, they attempt to grow these bacterial spores – this should fail if the sterilization process is effective.

Additionally, chemical color monitors are used for all instruments to indicate proper sterilization temperature.

Finally, a "steam integrator" is used for each sterilizer load of instruments to verify that the pressure was high enough to kill all living organisms.

For any questions, please e-mail us at
info@woodburyfamilydental.com

**118 River Road, Suite #14
Triangle Plaza, Harriman, NY
845-782-1800**

Please call us for a no-charge consultation.

