

This information is provided for our Customers to ensure that they understand more about the products we have provided - both how they benefit the patient and how they can be safely used. If you have any questions about why this product was recommended for you or questions about a therapy regimen, please contact your physician or therapist.

If you have any questions or concerns about the product provided to you, please contact our office.

ORAL SUCTION

Your doctor, nurse or therapist will show you the correct way to use the suction machine for oral suction. Follow his/her instructions exactly. The following guidelines may be helpful as a reminder.

PREPARATION

If the patient is alert and able to cooperate, have him or her relax and breathe slowly and deeply several times. If possible, elevate the patient's head and upper body. If you are using a hospital bed, elevate the knees slightly, and then elevate the head of the bed to about 45 degrees. In the absence of a hospital bed, elevate the patient's head and upper body using pillows or foam positioning wedges. Turn the patient's head toward you.

Plug the Suction Machine into a grounded outlet. Turn the switch "ON" and adjust the machine to the desired negative pressure by temporarily sealing the tubing from the Suction Machine and observing the pressure gauge while adjusting the knob. Your doctor or other health care professional will advise you regarding the approximate suction pressure to be used. Turn the knob clockwise to increase and counter-clockwise to decrease pressure.

Please Note: The pressure gauge will not read unless the tubing is sealed.

If the patient is receiving oxygen by nasal cannula, it should remain "ON" and in place during oral suctioning. If instructed to do so, increase the oxygen flow rate for a few minutes before and during suctioning. *Be sure to return the oxygen to the prescribed flow rate after suctioning is completed.*

- Wash your hands thoroughly.
- Open the suction catheter package, but do not remove the catheter. If a Yankauer oral suction device has been ordered by the doctor, have it ready.
- Open the disposable glove. Holding it by the cuff, slip it on the hand that you will be using to handle the catheter. Using your gloved hand, remove the catheter from its package. For the rest of this procedure, your gloved hand should not touch anything but the catheter, and the catheter should not be touched by anything except your gloved hand.
- Attach the larger end of the catheter to the tubing from the suction machine. With your gloved hand, place the end of the catheter in the container of water. Wetting the catheter will make it easier to insert and move around in the patient's mouth.
- To test the equipment: Hold the tubing with your bare hand near the end where it connects to the catheter, place the thumb of your bare hand over the catheter control valve and suction an ounce or two of water through the catheter. This confirms that the machine is working properly and will make the secretions flow through the catheter and tubing more easily. This small amount of water in the collection bottle will also make it easier to clean.

SUCTIONING:

Important: Do NOT close the control valve with your thumb while inserting the catheter. This will create suction at the tip of the catheter, causing it to stick to the side of the mouth and throat, making insertion more difficult and possibly causing irritation to the tender lining of the mouth and throat.

1. Insert the moistened catheter or Yankauer into one side of the patient's mouth and direct it along the side until it reaches the back of the mouth and upper throat area.

Customers who require suction may also need and qualify other products which help with the activities of daily living. An area where safety and ease of use is important is the bathroom. We can provide an array of solutions, from Wheeled Commode/Shower Chairs to specialized hand-held shower heads that allow for greater functionality and independence. Please ask our Representative for more information about these products.

Other supplies and products which you may consider to help with the activities of daily living include:

Hospital-Style Bed	Full or half-length Bed Rails	Protective Bed Pads
Skin protection cushions	Support Surfaces	Ostomy or Urological supplies
Fitted Sheet Sets	Wheelchairs & Ramp Systems	Enteral Nutrition Pumps & Supplies

ORAL SUCTION

2. If the patient gags, stop the insertion for a few moments. If gagging persists, remove the catheter, have the patient take a few deep breaths and try again. Gagging can usually be avoided by inserting the catheter along the side of the mouth and throat rather than over the tongue. If gagging or coughing occurs after the catheter tip is in the upper throat and you are unable to remove it easily, do not be alarmed. Simply leave it in place, disconnect it from the tubing, and it will act as an airway until the gagging or coughing stops.
3. Once the tip of the catheter has reached the area where the mucus and saliva have collected, alternately close and open the control valve with the thumb of your bare hand, and maneuver the catheter with your gloved hand to suction the secretions out of the throat and mouth. The intermittent suction provided by repeatedly opening and closing the control valve allows for more rapid evacuation of thick, tenacious secretions.
4. Continue to intermittently close the control valve with your bare thumb and slowly withdraw the catheter. Roll the catheter between your gloved thumb and index finger as it is withdrawn. This technique allows the tip of the catheter to pick up secretions from all directions and prevents damage to the tender lining of the throat and mouth.

The entire process of inserting the catheter, suctioning and withdrawing the catheter should be performed with care and gentleness, but for the comfort of the patient, it should also be performed quickly and decisively. The procedure should take no more than 10 to 15 seconds.

After the catheter is withdrawn, have the patient take several deep breaths. If raspy breathing or gurgling persists, the procedure may be repeated. If, during the suctioning procedure, the catheter becomes clogged by mucus or secretions, remove it, place the tip in the water, and close the control valve. This will draw water through the catheter and usually clear the clogged tubing quickly so that suctioning can be resumed.

In certain situations your doctor may recommend the use of a Yankauer or tonsil suction device instead of the usual flexible catheter just described. This is a rigid tube similar to the one used by dentists. It is curved slightly at the end to facilitate suctioning the back of the mouth and upper throat. The basic technique for oral suction with the Yankauer Catheter is the same as the flexible catheter.

WHEN SUCTIONING IS COMPLETED

After the catheter is withdrawn, immediately place the tip of the catheter in the water and close the control valve for a few seconds to flush all the secretions from the inside of the catheter and the tubing. Care must be exercised during this flushing procedure not to suction so much water through the system that you overflow the collection bottle. The Suction Machine can now be turned "OFF." Discard the glove and catheter in a plastic-lined wastebasket and wash your hands. If a reusable catheter is being used, follow the cleaning procedure below. Remove the collection bottle and slowly flush the contents down the toilet to avoid splashing. Rinse the bottle thoroughly with hot water several times and slowly flush contents down the toilet.

Important: Never allow the collection bottle to become more than half full before emptying.

INFECTION CONTROL

1. If you have disposable gloves available, it is advisable that they be worn when emptying the collection bottle.
2. Always wash your hands after handling the suction equipment and after emptying the collection bottle.
3. Always wash your hands after removing either sterile or unsterile gloves.

CLEANING REUSABLE CATHETERS

If recommended by the doctor, you may be provided reusable catheters or a Yankauer. Particular care should be exercised in the cleaning of these devices. It is advisable to wear non-sterile disposable gloves when cleaning the reusable catheter and always wash your hands afterwards.

1. Wash the catheter or Yankauer thoroughly in warm soapy water. Rinse well with clear water.
2. In a separate, small, covered container, soak the catheter or Yankauer in the solution recommended and for the length of time specified by your doctor, nurse or therapist.
3. Using a disposable glove, remove the catheter or Yankauer, allow it to drain and place it in a clean, covered container to store it for later use.

Always contact our office if you have any questions or concerns about this equipment.