

# ASK SIMON

THE DENTAL EXPERT



## LIGHT SHIELD CARE AND MAINTENANCE

A-dec light shields are manufactured using a durable Polycarbonate resin and silicone dioxide coating resulting in a durable, scratch resistant, optically correct, protective shield that can provide many years of service before requiring replacement. To maximize the life of A-dec light shields, proper care should be taken by the dental team when determining appropriate asepsis protocols, and when applicable, using chemicals that minimize potential damage.

Engineering has conducted extensive testing/simulation to understand the effects of various disinfectants on A-dec light shields. Most cause damage ranging from: discoloration, fractures in the shield, up to possible tab failure. Through field study, it was observed that even offices stating they did not directly disinfect the shield, were inadvertently spraying/wiping disinfectants on the "tab" area of the shield in the course of disinfecting light handles, causing damage.



**Please consider the following recommendations in the care and maintenance of your A-dec light shield:**

**ASEPSIS PROTOCOL:** Light shields should not be touched during patient treatment. It is only when shields are visibly contaminated that they should be disinfected.

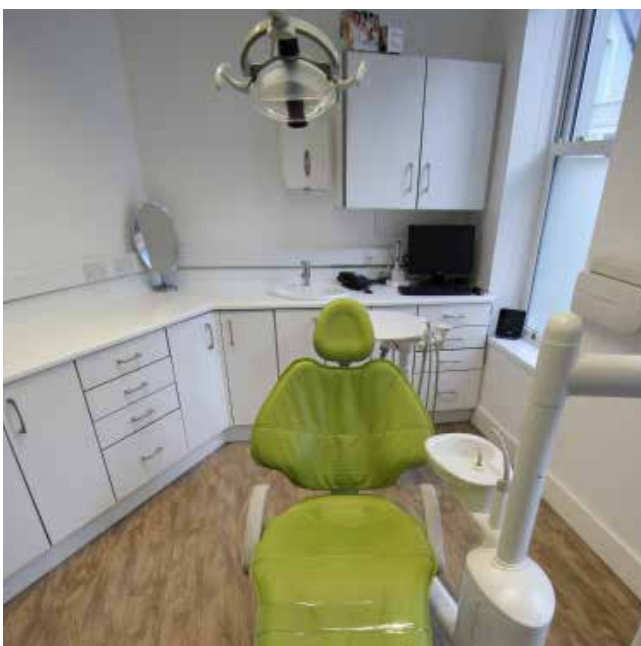
**MAXIMIZING LIGHT SHIELD LIFE:** The following chemicals should NOT be used:

- Isopropanol "Alcohol" (greater than 5% by volume)
- Hydrogen Peroxide (i.e., Optim 33TB)
- Quaternary Ammonium Compounds that have greater than 5% alcohol content (i.e., Cavicide, DisCide Ultra)

While all chemical disinfection will decrease the life of the shield, our testing showed that the following chemicals caused the least damage:

- Sodium Hypochlorite "Bleach" when mixed with water 1:10
- Water-based Phenolic

Additionally, heat can accelerate damage caused by disinfectants. A-dec recommends cooling the shield 10-15 minutes prior to disinfection and rinsing with water after disinfection to maximize shield life.



Contact Dental Medical Ireland today

**Tel: 1890 400 405**

