



Guidelines for Reprocessing Dental Curing Lights

This document contains information from our parent company 3M US in regards to the US-based Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations¹ in dental settings for medical devices that come in contact with mucous membranes or non-intact skin, which include all dental curing light guides. You should always follow your provincial guidelines.

The 3M™ Elipar™ DeepCure-S LED Curing Light and the 3M™ Paradigm™ DeepCure LED Curing Light meet the CDC recommendations in the US for sterilization, high level disinfection or barrier with intermediate-level disinfection as outlined below.

3M Curing Lights ⁺	Non-removable Light Guide ⁺⁺	Criticality/Reprocessing
Validated		All semi-critical items should be sterilized using heat, including curing light guides.
Validated		If a semi-critical item is heat-sensitive, replace with a heat-tolerant alternative. If none available, process using high-level disinfection.
Validated	Feasible	If the item cannot tolerate heat or high-level disinfection, at a minimum, protect with an appropriate barrier. Disinfect with a hard surface disinfectant with intermediate-level activity between patients.

+ Example: 3M™ Elipar™ DeepCure-S LED Curing Light / 3M™ Paradigm™ DeepCure LED Curing Light.
++ Example: Valo Grand Cordless.

Instructions for Cleaning and Disinfection of a Curing Light Shield and Curing Light Handpiece



Cleaning: Wipe thoroughly with CaviWipes™, or equivalent wipe, for 30 seconds or until visibly clean, according to manufacturer instructions.



Disinfection: Disinfect with an alcohol-quaternary ammonium wipe, such as CaviWipes™ for the contact time on the disinfectant label.

Cleaning Options for Curing Light Guides



Option A: Wipe thoroughly with CaviWipes™, or equivalent wipe, for 30 seconds or until visibly clean, according to manufacturer instructions.



Option B: Manually clean by submerging in an enzymatic detergent for five minutes and scrubbing with a soft plastic brush until visibly clean. Rinse in purified water according to detergent instructions.



Option C: Washer-disinfector with an enzymatic detergent and a minimum of five minutes at 95°C thermal rinse cycle.

Disinfection or Sterilization Options for Removable Curing Light Guides

Intermediate-Level Disinfection (only when using a sleeve)

1. Select cleaning option A or B.
2. Disinfect with an alcohol-quaternary ammonium wipe, such as CaviWipes™ and wipe for the contact time on the disinfectant label.

High-Level Disinfection

1. Select cleaning option C with thermal rinse for five minutes at 95°C.

Sterilization

1. Select cleaning option A, B or C.
2. Package light guide in a single sterilization pouch.
3. Sterilize the curing light guide according to the instructions (below).

Sterilization	Temp. (°C)	Time	Dry Time
Pre-vacuum	132	4 minutes	30 minutes, or until dry in the autoclave being used
	134	3 minutes	
Gravity	121	20 minutes	

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings: Basic Expectations for Safe Care. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, US Dept of Health and Human Services; October 2016. Page 12.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the origin of these guidelines?

Based on CDC guidelines, 3M has compiled the US validated options for its curing lights in order to support and assist our customers in helping to protect staff and patients from the risk of infection.

What is a semi-critical device?

A device that contacts intact mucous membranes or non-intact skin.

What is a non-critical device?

A device that contacts only intact skin or does not directly contact the patient but may become contaminated with microorganisms and organic soil during patient care.

What is cleaning?

Removal of contamination (usually organic or inorganic soil) from an item to the extent necessary for further processing.

What is intermediate level disinfection?

A process that kills viruses, mycobacteria, fungi, and vegetative bacteria, but not necessarily bacterial spores.

What is high level disinfection?

A process that kills all microbial organisms but not necessarily large numbers of bacterial spores.

What is sterilization?

A validation process used to render a product free from all viable microorganisms.

What is gravity sterilization?

Type of sterilization cycle in which incoming steam displaces residual air through a port or drain usually in or near the bottom of the sterilization chamber.

What is dynamic air removal sterilization?

Type of sterilization cycles in which air is removed from the chamber and the load by means of a series of pressure and vacuum excursions (pre-vacuum cycle) or by means of a series of steam flushes and pressure pulses above atmospheric pressure (steam flush pressure pulse (SFPP) cycle).

What happens if the sleeve is damaged during use?

If the sleeve is damaged or has a hole, the curing light guide should be high-level disinfected or sterilized.

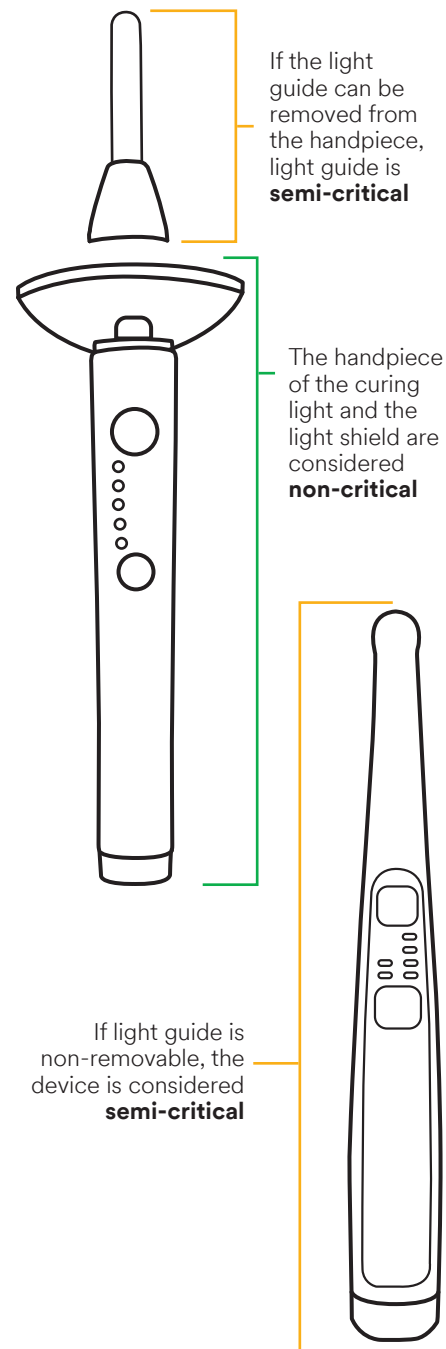
Can the sleeve impact the power or irradiance of a curing light?

Yes, the sleeve can impact the power and irradiance of a curing light. It is critical to ensure the sleeve is powder-free and the seam is not over the tip of the light guide and that the sleeve fits well. Finger cots should never be used for a barrier sleeve. We have tested the following sleeves:

Sleeve	Impacts Power or Irradiance of 3M Curing Lights
Cure Sleeve® Tip Covers (short) – Kerr	No
Complete Curing Light Sleeves-Demi – Kerr	No
TIDIShield™ Custom Fit Curing Light Sleeves – TIDI Products	No
SmartLite® Max Lens Cover Sleeve – Dentsply	No
Curelastic™ Cure-Light Sleeve (Steri-Shield)	Yes

How to Define your Curing Light Device

(semi-critical vs. non-critical)



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