







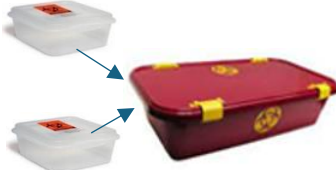


# Contaminated Instrument Management and Transport

In any healthcare setting, every effort should be made to use single-use, disposable items. When reusable patient items are used, they must be cleaned and sterilized to prevent transmission of disease between patients. Because of the nature of public health dentistry, contaminated instruments must be transported back to a central location to be terminally cleaned and sterilized.

**Things to remember:**

- Contaminated instruments should be safely transferred to an OSHA approved transport container during treatment area cleaning/ disinfection. This container should be leak/ puncture resistant, latchable/ lockable and have a biohazard label.
- Utility gloves should be worn during treatment area cleaning/ disinfection and handling contaminated instruments when packing for transport.

### Contaminated Instrument Preparation and Transport Process

Step 1: Don appropriate PPE.	
Step 2: After use and before instruments are placed in transport container, remove visible debris and saliva with a damp gauze.	
Step 3: Place pre-cleaned instruments in an approved transport container. If hinged instruments are present, leave them in the open position.	
Step 4: Saturate instruments in transport container with enzymatic spray/ foam. Instruments must remain saturated with the enzymatic spray/ foam according to the product instructions for use and during transport.	
Step 5: Individual instrument set transport containers should be placed in a single, larger, secondary transport container that also meets the above specifications before being placed in the vehicle for transport.	
Step 6: Instruments can then be transported back to the location identified for cleaning and sterilization in accordance with OSHA guidelines.	
Step 7: Clean and disinfect transport containers after use.	

\*Sterile, packaged instruments should also be transported in a rigid transport container that could be the same style, but should not be the same container that is used for contaminated instrument transport.

U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration. 2024. Bloodborne Pathogens Standard. <https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910/1910.1030>