



Tech Talk

Improved Impressions



Get a perfect fitting prosthetic every time. Taking an alginate impression is one of the most common procedures done in a dental office today, but did you know that it can quickly become one of the most costly?

Minor discrepancies in technique can significantly impact the accuracy of the final product, leading to remakes, extra chair time and possibly even the need for a new impression.

Remembering these simple tips will help you take a better alginate impression the first time, every time.

Call or chat online with our technical support team.

(877) 337-7800

Learn more at ddslab.com

Mix it up right

Check the water-to-powder ratio

Typically we see too much powder in the mix, which causes the consistency to be grainy. This usually occurs because the alginate was not shaken up in the can before it was measured out. If there is too much water in the mix, the material will be too thin, causing the impression to tear upon removal.

Verify water temperature

If the water is too warm, it will decrease mixing time and prevent a smooth mix. Cold water delays the setting on alginate. The ideal water temperature is 70°F.

Mixing order is important

Always add powder to water, not water to powder. This ensures that all of the powder is fully incorporated. Once incorporated, mix vigorously for one minute to achieve a creamy consistency, which helps the chemical reaction occur uniformly. Always follow the manufacturers instructions for mixing. They are there for a reason. Do not take the short cuts.



Did You Know?

You should never wrap alginate in wet paper towels. It will absorb the moisture and distort the impression rendering it unusable.

Call or chat online with our technical support team.

(877) 337-7800

Learn more at ddslab.com

It's all in the details

Prep the patient properly

Have the patient thoroughly rinse his or her mouth to remove debris, cut mucin and lower surface tension before taking the impression. Lightly dry the teeth with compressed air.

Select the right tray

The tray should cover the areas needed for the impression and still allow for adequate clearance between the tray and the tissues. When finding the right tray, there are times when you may need to extend the posterior area of the tray with red rope wax so you capture the retromolar pad on the lower and the maxillary tuberosity. This is especially important when taking impressions for dentures.

Better removal in a snap

Patience is the key

If the alginate is still in a plastic state upon removal, impression detail will be lost. So be certain to keep the impression in the mouth for a full two minutes. Leave a test sample in your mixing bowl. When your sample starts to set, start timing your impression.

Working the tray

When removing the impression from the maxillary, you can use each of your index fingers and place them all the way back posterior on the masseter muscle to release the suction and pull down.

Call or chat online with our technical support team.

(877) 337-7800

Learn more at ddslab.com

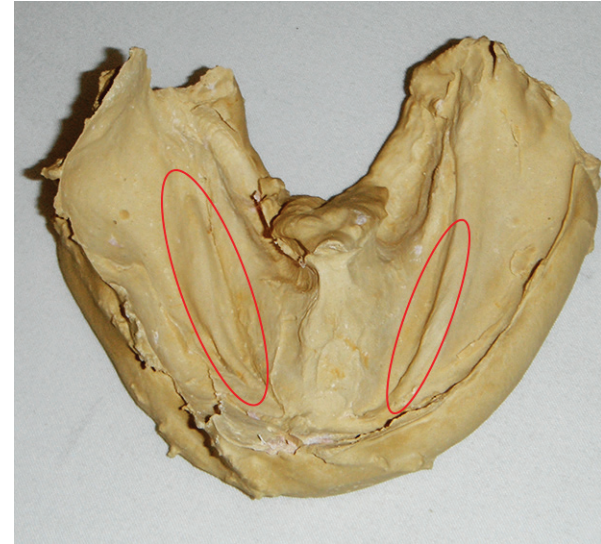
Remove rapidly

Alginates are less likely to tear when you remove the impression quickly. Avoid rocking or twisting when removing the impression. Instead, remove quickly with a snap. Don't forget to inspect your alginate impression. This is an essential step in saving time, money and heartache — for you, the lab and the patient.

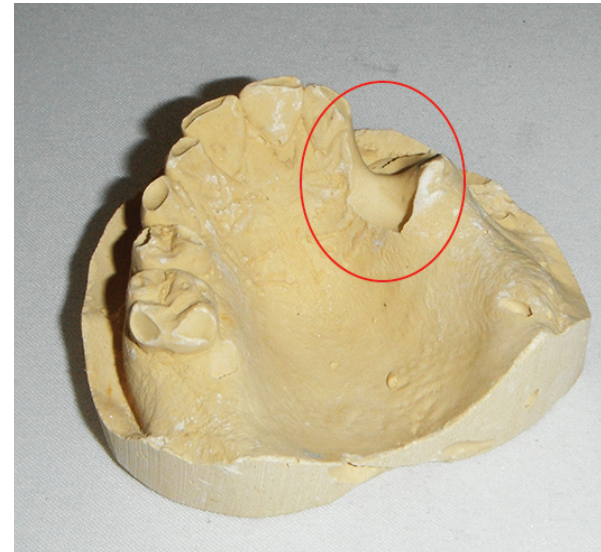
What to look for and why it's a problem

- Check your impressions carefully before they are poured up in stone.
- If you're unsure about the accuracy of your impression, take another one while the patient is still in the chair.
- Always review your impression models for accuracy before you send them to the lab. Always look for imperfections like voids and pulls. At DDS Lab, we make each dental prosthetic to fit precisely to the model you send; if the impression details aren't accurate, then the mold is wrong. Ultimately, that means the dental prosthetic we deliver to you will not fit correctly in the patient's mouth. Taking a good impression and minding the details helps us all deliver a better dental prosthetic to the patient.

Commonly seen problems



Anterior ridge distortions



Large voids on impression

Call or chat online with our technical support team.

(877) 337-7800

Learn more at ddslab.com

Use our virtual RX system, **MyDDSLab.com**, online or through our mobile app

 **My DDS LAB**

Use MyDDSLab.com to...

- Submit prescriptions online
- Track cases and receive email order notifications
- Manage UPS case shipments
- View account balance and pay invoices online
- View impression reports and scores



Additional free resources can be found at: ddslab.com/free-resources

About DDS Lab:

DDS Lab is a NBC member and full-service Certified Dental Lab (CDL) located in Tampa, FL. DDS Lab specializes in serving group practices and provides the perfect balance between quality products and competitive pricing. For more information, contact DDS Lab at ddslab.com or at **877-337-7800**.

Learn more at ddslab.com