



Dental Unit Water Line (DUWL) Q&A

Q - How often should I test my DUWL's water quality?

A – Not all Manufacturers of DUWL delivery systems have written MIFU's for maintaining clean water. ADEC for example state **“Water quality should be monitored by performing a test that provides a quantitative measurement of heterotrophic bacteria.”**

In accordance with CDC recommendations, MicroSureH20 & MicroSureH2Os recommends testing once per month for 3 consecutive months. If a pass is achieved in each month then quarterly testing is recommended thereafter.

Q – How long does it take to perform a water test?

A – MicroSureH20 & MicroSureH2Os does not require incubation and takes a maximum 1 hour at room temperature.

Q – How are test results interpreted with MicroSureH20?

A – MicroSureH20 & MicroSureH2Os offer a colour read out.

Pink = CLEAN = less than 500 CFU's / mL of water.

Purple = CONTAMINATED between 500 and 2000CFU's / mL of water

Clear= HIGHLY CONTAMINATED over 2000 CFU's / mL of water.



Q – How much test water do I add to the test vial (pink reagent) from the syringe?

A – Add an equal amount of water to the pink level in the glass vial.

Q – What do I do if it turns purple / clear?

A – Refer to MIFU.

Options will vary but may include:

- Retesting - Ensuring that lines are run for 2 -3 minutes before taking water sample
- Shock Treatment
- Replacement of water lines and implementation of maintenance system (eg. DentaPure). Testing of water lines should occur prior to any maintenance system as they are designed to maintain existing clean lines only.

Q - Which lines do I have to test?

A – All DUWL's. Air / water syringes, high speed handpieces, cavitron, etc. Anywhere that potentially introduces water into the patient's mouth should be tested.

Q - Can I take samples from all the lines and do one test?

A – No. Community tests fail to identify clean from contaminated lines.

Q - Should I record the results of my test?

A – Yes. Record the operatory, waterline, date and validate with the clinician's initials.

Q – What are the PIDAC / RCDSO recommendations regarding Dental Unit Waterlines?

A - RCDSO " The manufacturer's instructions related to dental units and equipment must be followed for daily and weekly maintenance."

Public Health Ontario Section 4.1 "Staff have received training regarding water quality, biofilm formation, water treatment methods and appropriate maintenance protocols for water delivery systems."

Section 4.7 " Manufacturer's instructions regarding testing, maintenance and preventive maintenance of lines, anti-retraction valves and other accessories are followed."