

A Plastic Bottle as Microetcher Hood

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ABSTRACT

Different methods of recycling orthodontic attachments include flaming, grinding, and microetching. Microetching using aluminum oxide particles leads to spillage and inhalation hazards. A simple and economical method is presented using a disposable plastic bottles, which will prevent the spillage and aid in making microetching more ecofriendly.

Keywords: Recycling bracket, Sandblasting, Aluminum oxide particles.

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INTRODUCTION

Many orthodontists recondition orthodontic attachments, particularly brackets.

There are different methods of reconditioning orthodontic attachments which include flaming, grinding the residual resin with green stone and most frequently sandblasting. Metallic brackets tend to discolor with heating.

For sandblasting, 50 micron aluminum oxide particles under pressure are used to remove the composite resin. The aluminum oxide powder is messy and difficult to control. Several vacuum chambers are commercially available, which are bulky and cost prohibitive. A practical system has been developed for in-office microetching.

PROCEDURE

Use a clear, disposable plastic bottle as a hood. A hole, just large enough for the bracket holder, is drilled into the side of the bottle about two inches from the opening (Fig. 1). The bracket is inserted through the drilled hole and the microetcher nozzle is inserted through the opening of bottle. The bracket is held close to the nozzle and sandblasted (Fig. 2). The presented method is advantageous as aluminum oxide and particles are collected in the bottle base thus minimizing the escape and inhabitation.

REFERENCE

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Fig. 1: Clear disposable plastic bottle with hole for bracket holder insertion



Fig. 2: The bracket held close to the sandblaster nozzle

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