

## COMMON INSTRUMENTS USED DURING DENTAL EXAMINATIONS

A dental surgery contains instruments and equipment of various shapes, sizes and functions. The tools most commonly used during routine examinations are

### Mouth Mirrors

	<p>These small mirrors are used during treatment to allow the dentist to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A) examine the mouth and teeth for cavities or tissue abnormalities</li> <li>B) retracting the patients tongue and cheeks to give the dentist a clearer view of inside the mouth</li> <li>C) protect soft tissues from drills and sharp instruments while carrying out treatment</li> <li>D) The Mirror reflects light onto the tooth making it easier for the dentist to see</li> </ul> <p>The mirror head is screwed into a mirror handle which means is can be easily removed and replaced if damaged and scraped.</p>
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	<p>There are 3 main probes of which any can commonly be found on a basic checkup tray. Probe is taken from a Latin word Probo, which means "to test."</p>
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### Periodontal probes

<p>These probes are mainly used by the dentist or hygienist to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A) detect developing periodontal pockets</li> <li>B) measure the depths of the pockets and any loss of attachment to periodontal structures</li> <li>C) They can also be used to detect calculus and measure furcation involvements</li> </ul>
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## Straight probe



The straight probe has one sharp pointed end and is used to check around the margins of existing fillings or crowns and also to check for cavities in the biting surface of the teeth

## Briault probe



The briault is a sharp double ended probe and is used to detect caries on the mesial and distal (in between) surfaces of teeth. It's bent shape at the end lends itself easily to help detect caries developing in between the teeth where the dentist cannot see using standard mirrors. It can also be used to detected tartar hidden in the periodontal (gum) pockets.

## Filling Tray instruments

As well as the instruments listed above, you will find some additional instruments on a filling treatment tray.

### Flat plastic

	<p>Double ended with flat, blunt blades. A flat plastic is used to shape and removed excess filling material from a tooth. A flat plastic instrument can sometimes be confused for a wards carver because one end is nearly identical to the flat plastic, but side by side they look very different.</p>
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### Wards Carver

	<p>Text to come from gina</p> 
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## Burnisher

	<p>A burnisher can be single or double ended and come in different shapes and sizes. Burnishers are mostly used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A) Normally used at the end of the treatment to smooth and polish a filled tooth</li><li>B) Emphasise grooves or remove excess filling material on the surface of the tooth</li></ul> 
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## Amalgam plugger

	<p>Also referred to as amalgam condensers, the amalgam plugger is used to compress the filling material into the prepared cavity. Substantial pressure is used with the plugger to achieve a well condensed filling</p> 
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## Spoon excavator



Spoon excavators are usually double sided instruments and come in a range of shapes and sizes. Some can be big and broad while others have such small heads it can be difficult to tell if they are excavators or not. Spoon excavators mainly are used to:

A) Remove carious dentine from the tooth. Small, medium or large excavators can be used depending on the cavity needing to be prepared.



## Tweezers



Tweezers are used to place or remove small items like cotton wool pellets into the mouth safely.