

- If necessary change to an instrument of a different size but not of a different shape. This improves the workflow by avoiding delays due to the dentist switching instruments.

A spatula is an extremely versatile instrument:

- With its slightly tapered working end it can be used to apply the composite material precisely.
- The flat surface allows material to be applied and shaped
- Excess can be removed with the edge, cusp contours can be shaped or the marginal lobes of an incisal edge can be recreated. Naturally it does not make sense to use a complete new set of instruments for each case. Every dentist can make his selection according to his experience and working habits.

A few suggestions:

- A posterior set with one plugger and one or even two spatulas
- An anterior set with two spatulas



**Maintenance of the instruments**

Instruments for sculpting composites should not be used for any other purpose in order to keep their surface intact. In particular, they must never be used for working with glass ionomer cement or amalgam. Composite instruments must be protected from scratches. Storage in cases is always to be preferred.

During use, monomer traces always remain on the part of the instrument that is placed in contact with the composite material. With a disposable paper napkin at hand, the instruments can be wiped regularly for greater working efficiency. **DA**



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