



Get the Full Picture

Effective instrument processing begins with a quality sterilizer. How do you decide which sterilizer is right for your practice?



WHEN CHOOSING YOUR STERILIZER, LOOK BEYOND THE INITIAL PURCHASE PRICE TO GET THE FULL PICTURE. CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SIX IMPORTANT FACTORS:

1. STERILIZER AND CLEANING CAPACITY Prepare beyond today's sterilization needs and consider the future needs of your practice.

Make sure the number and types of sterilizers and cleaning equipment you select can accommodate future growth.

2. TURNAROUND TIME

Consider turnaround time as you determine the capacity you need. Instrument processing requires more time than most procedures, and every practice must find a balance between available instruments and planned procedures.

3. EASE OF OPERATION

Keep it simple with an easy-to-use sterilizer and seamless workflow. Dental practice teams are usually busy managing many tasks. By keeping the sterilization process simple, more work can be accomplished in other areas.

4. STERILIZER DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

Understand how the sterilizer provides you with documentation and how you will need to manage it. Regulations require that effective sterilization of reusable medical and dental instruments be proven and documented. Information on sterilizer performance can be recorded in print or electronically.

5. MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS Make sure you get the full picture of what

maintenance, associated costs, and time will be required to keep the sterilizer operating properly.

6. COST OF OWNERSHIP

Consider everything you will need to purchase to routinely operate the sterilizer. Operating any sterilizer includes some ongoing expenses, and your choices can impact that cost. You can spend pennies per day or dollars per day.

Compare Steam Sterilizers



	Midmark M Series	Tuttna
Sterilization Method	Steam Flush Pressure Pulse: Steam, Heat, Positive Pressure	Steam F with Pos Heat,
Total Cycle Time	44–60 Minutes Load independent	47 Loa
Performance Testing	Chemical or Biological Indicators	C Biolo
Air Requirements	Ambient	
Water Requirements	Manual; Distilled Optional Auto Drain Drain Weekly	Ma
Vacuum or Air Pump	N/A	
Documentation	Printer, Data logger with USB	U
Training Requirement	Minimal	
Cost of Ownership	Pennies per Day ~\$120/year in disposables for printer and water systems (if distilled water is purchased)	\$ in dis and

Data gathered from manufacturers' published materials. Costs are estimated based on average price of required consumables.



Tuttnauer[®] EZ Series

Flush Pressure Pulse st Air Flush: Steam, Positive Pressure

7–60 Minutes ad dependent

Chemical or ogical Indicators

Filtered

anual; Filtered

Air

Printer, JSB (Limited)

Moderate

53+ per Day

\$1,000/year sposables for air water systems

-	1_

W&H[®] Lexa

Steam Flush Pressure Pulse with Vacuum-Assisted Drying: Steam, Heat, Positive Pressure, Vacuum

> 43–71 Minutes Load dependent

Chemical or Biological Required Vacuum Test

Filtered

Manual; Filtered, Optional Auto Fill; Optional Auto Drain

~\$1,000 for auto drain system or manual draining needed every 8-9 cycles

Vacuum

Printer, USB, App (Wi-Fi Required)

Moderate

\$3+ per Day

~\$1,000/year in disposables for printer(s), air and water systems

Additional cost for labor to perform vacuum test



SciCan StatClave® G4

Pre/Post Vacuum (Class B): Steam, Heat, Positive Pressure, Vacuum

> 36–50 Minutes Load dependent

Chemical or Biological Indicators, Bowie-Dick Test for Vacuum

Filtered

Manual; Filtered

~\$1,000 for auto drain system or manual draining needed every 3-4 cycles

Vacuum

Printer, USB

Extensive

\$8+ per Day

\$5–8/day for Bowie–Dick Test

~\$1,500-2,000/year in disposables for air and water systems

Dig Deeper

1. STERILIZER AND CLEANING CAPACITY

- How many clinicians are in your practice today and will be in the future?
- What type and number of sterilizers and cleaning units does your practice need?
- How much instrumentation needs to be processed each day?

EQUIPMENT CONSIDERATIONS



Match instrument processing capabilities with the anticipated procedure volume.

2. TURNAROUND TIME

The CDC recommends a multi-step approach for instrument processing.¹

	Receiving, Cleaning and Decontamination	Preparation and Packaging	Sterilization	Sterilization Monitoring	Storage
Description	Sort, clean, rinse and dry instruments.	Wrap or pouch instruments.	Start steam sterilization and drying.	Collect physical data (temperature, time) of sterilization. Use chemical and biological indicators and record results.	Keep sterilized instruments dry and organized for easy access.
Time Required	10–15 Minutes Depends on number of instruments	10–20 Minutes Depends on number and type of instruments	50–70 Minutes 15–20 minutes with immediate use sterilizer, but capacity is limited	5-10 Minutes May need more time to collate data from multiple sources	As needed

¹ https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/guidelines/disinfection/sterilization/sterilizing-practices.html

Choose a layout and equipment that will help you efficiently follow CDC guidelines.



3. EASE OF USE

- How many sterilization cycles do you have to choose between?
- How do you know which sterilization cycle to use when?
- How much training and expertise is required to use the sterilizer?
- How many accessory systems
- (i.e., water, air, vacuum, printers, e-records) are needed?

Minimize the effort and steps required to operate the sterilizer to keep the process flowing.

4. STERILIZATION DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

- How does the sterilizer generate all the daily auditable data?
- Do you need to manage paper records from chemical indicators, biological indicators and Bowie-Dick test results?
- Is IT expertise and support needed for electronic record keeping?
- Will mixed documentation from paper and electronic records complicate documentation?
- Are frequent internal checks and training needed to maintain documentation diligence?

Keep the documentation process as easy as possible to help ensure compliance with safety standards. Be sure that adequate time is allocated for your team to perform this critical task.

5. MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

- Does the sterilizer have complex components (i.e., vacuum or air pump, steam generator, Wi-Fi)? • Does the sterilizer need special air and water filtration systems to operate?
- How often will you have to change items like filters on
- the unit? • How will you know it's time for maintenance on a filter-
- using system? • What are the daily, weekly
- and monthly maintenance requirements for the sterilizer? • Can your staff do the
- maintenance, or will you need a service call to maintain the sterilizer?

for any sterilizer. Instrument helps keep it that way.



Make sure you understand the maintenance time and cost required processing is an inherently simple process-but only if your sterilizer

6. COST OF OWNERSHIP

- Do you have to maintain a water or air filtration system that requires periodic replacement of the filter?
- How many times will you need to change filters each year?
- Do you have to do a Bowie-Dick test on the sterilizer?
- Do you need to pay for data or cloud services to manage documentation?
- How much time is needed for documentation?
- How much training is needed for new staff to use the unit?

Get the scoop on the true cost of ownership. Sterilizers range in cost of operation from pennies per day to dollars per day.



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