

Focus on Floss

Preventing dental caries and periodontal diseases is our ultimate goal and dental floss is a powerful tool in achieving that goal. For individuals without anatomical challenges, dental floss remains the most effective means to cleaning interproximally. Patients who present with shallow probing depths and who have the dexterity to use floss appropriately can keep interdental areas healthy simply by flossing daily. In order for floss to be an effective preventive tool, the dental hygienist should assist patients in selecting the floss that is ideal for them. In addition, repeated usage instructions can help assure that proper technique is learned and used. With so many options in dental floss products, a one-size-fits-all is not the best approach, since each patient has specific needs and desires. *Dimensions of Dental Hygiene* provides this table of dental floss products to assist you in making the right decision for each patient. Happy flossing!

—Jill Rethman, editorial director

Note: Floss manufacturers in the United States were invited to submit information for this table. This list includes those companies that responded to our request for information.

PRODUCT	MANUFACTURER	PRODUCT NAME	UNIQUE FEATURES
DENTAL FLOSS: Regular	AIT Dental Inc www.aitdental.com	Proxi-Floss™	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Molded Will not fray or snag
	Oral-B® www.oralb.com	EssentialFloss®	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Specially bonded bicomponent filament makes it easy to insert Shred and fray resistant
	P.O.H. www.oralhealthproducts.com	PERCEPT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Black color Multifilament
	P.O.H.	Classic NoWax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Zero additives Multifilament
	P.O.H.	Classic LiteWax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low percent wax Multifilament
	Pro-Dentec® www.prodentec.com	Floss, Lightly Waxed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fray resistant
	Tom's of Maine www.tomsofmaine.com	Naturally Waxed Anti-plaque Unflavored Flat and Unflavored Round	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mixture of bees wax, jojoba, carnauba with propolis and myrrh for easy glide and gentle action
DENTAL FLOSS: Braided	Sunstar Butler GUM® www.jbutler.com	ButlerWeave® (Regular, Tutti Frutti, and Mint)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Woven design effectively removes plaque between teeth and below gumline Interlaced construction results in a strong, shred resistant floss
	Sunstar Butler GUM	Fine Dental Floss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thin, shred resistant for cleaning between tightly spaced teeth and below gumline "S" twist fibers offer durability and spreadability to remove plaque
	Sunstar Butler GUM	Postcare® Implant Floss Aid	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implant flossing device designed to remove plaque from all osseointegrated attachments without scratching metal posts
DENTAL FLOSS: Flavored	Discus Dental www.discusdental.com	Breath Rx™ Waxed Floss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works between teeth, leaving Zytex® behind to kill bacteria and neutralize odor Mint flavor
	Johnson & Johnson www.jnj.com	Reach® Clean Burst	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intense burst of flavor is released with each swipe of the floss
	Nimbus Dental www.nimbus.com	MiniFloss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compact case Light mint flavor
	Oral-B	SATINFloss®	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shred resistant due to filament design Gentle on gums and fingers with a satin-like finish
	Oral-B	UltraFloss®	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interlocking network of spongy nylon fibers changes shape to help remove plaque Easy to insert when stretched
	Procter & Gamble www.crest.com	Crest® Glide® Mint Floss Crest Glide Comfort Plus Mint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Made from ePTFE (expanded polytetrafluoroethylene) for high tensile strength, shred resistant, uniform thickness and width
	Pro-Dentec	Hi-Tec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ultrathin, mint flavored Nonfraying filament
	Sunstar Butler GUM	Tutti Frutti and Various Mint	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flavored floss available in ButlerWeave and Eez-Thru® floss
	Tom's of Maine	Naturally Waxed Anti-plaque Spearmint Flat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mixture of bees wax, jojoba, carnauba with propolis, and myrrh for easy glide



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DENTAL FLOSS: PTFE	Colgate Palmolive www.colgateprofessional.com	Total® Dental Floss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Micro-crystalline coating for sliding between close contacts • Single strand Teflon fiber to prevent shredding
	Procter & Gamble	Crest Glide Floss, Comfort Plus Floss and Tape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made from ePTFE (expanded polytetrafluoroethylene) for high tensile strength, shred resistant, uniform thickness and width
	Sunstar Butler GUM	Eez-Thru Floss (Regular and Mint)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy to use, especially for those with tight contacts • Monofilament construction is shred resistant and strong
	TePe www.tepe.com	PTFE Dental Tape	
DENTAL FLOSS: Tape	Sunstar Butler GUM	Dental Tape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shred resistant waxed ribbon slides easily on the tooth • Wider floss construction allows effective cleaning in spaces between teeth and below gumline
	Procter & Gamble	Crest Glide Tape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made from ePTFE (expanded polytetrafluoroethylene) for high tensile strength, shred resistant, 50% thicker and twice as wide as Crest Glide Original Floss
	TePe	Dental Tape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very thin • Glides
DENTAL FLOSS: Therapeutic Agent, Coated	Discus Dental	BreathRx Waxed Floss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works between teeth, leaving Zytex® behind to kill bacteria and neutralize odor • Mint flavor
	OMNII Oral Pharmaceuticals™ www.omniipharma.com	FlossRx™	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impregnated with stannous fluoride and Microdent®
DENTAL FLOSS: Tufted	Sunstar Butler GUM	Expanding™ Floss	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floss expands during use • Ideal for patients with gingival recessions, sensitivity, or wide interdental spaces
	Sunstar Butler GUM	Eez-Thru Flossers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special floss slides between teeth and resists shredding • Multiple filaments provide a textured surface for more tooth contact
	Thornton International www.thorntonfloss.com	3in1 Floss, Periodontal Floss, Bridge and Implant Cleaners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floss threader and tufted interproximal brush all in one easy-to-use product
DENTAL FLOSS HOLDER	Johnson & Johnson	Reach Access™ Flosser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toothbrush style handle, ergonomic • Disposable snap-on heads
	OMNII Oral Pharmaceuticals	Floss N Toss™	
	Sunstar Butler GUM	Flosbrush®	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small, slim handle design with comfort grip for easy maneuverability inside the mouth and between teeth • Angled neck and compact head allow easy access to posterior teeth
	Sunstar Butler GUM	Flossmate® Handle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer, curved fingers allow access to posterior teeth • Easy to place floss between teeth without interference from the handle
	TePe	Floss Holder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Narrow to easily fit in mouth • Comfortable grip to manage
DENTAL FLOSS THREADER	Oral-B	SuperFloss®	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy insertion with stiff end threader • Effectively cleans large interproximal areas with soft filament brush
	Procter & Gamble	Crest Glide Threader Floss	
	Sunstar Butler GUM	Eez-Thru Floss Threaders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Versatile nylon loop helps patients thread floss through spaces like under bridges, between connected crowns, and around ortho or implant appliances
POWER DENTAL FLOSSER	AIT Dental Inc	Sonic Plakaway Plus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement tips
	Johnson & Johnson	Reach Access Power Flosser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unique powered sweeping motion
	Oral-B	Hummingbird™	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gentle vibrations for flossing comfort • Small, portable size for ease of access to posterior teeth and interproximal areas
	Pro-Dentec	Rota-dent One Step®	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • True 360° rotary action generating 92,000 plaque reducing sweeps of patented Microaccess technology
	Waterpik Technologies www.professional.waterpik.com	Power Flosser, Model FLA-220	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft, flexible nylon tip is easy to place and reaches from buccal to lingual for effective plaque removal
	Waterpik Technologies	Whitening Floss, Model FLW-110	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft, flexible nylon tip is easy to place and reaches from buccal to lingual for effective plaque removal
	Waterpik Technologies	Rechargeable Flosser, Model FLW-310	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soft, flexible nylon tip is easy to place and reaches from buccal to lingual for effective plaque removal