

FOCUS^{on} Prophylaxis Pastes and Air Polishing Powders

Advances in prophylaxis paste and a fresh generation of air polishing powders are giving clinicians powerful new tools for dental hygiene care.

Coronal polishing has been a part of scaling and debridement appointments for decades. While the benefit of selective polishing vs. routine polishing is still a topic of much discussion, there is no doubt that polishing is indicated in the majority of patients at various times throughout their lives. Polishing removes stains and plaque biofilm, and also smoothes the tooth surface, creating what some patients describe as a “clean” feeling. Various methods can be used to polish teeth, including rubber cups, brushes and air powder devices. Prophyl pastes and air polishing powders are available in numerous grits and flavors. Some recently developed polishing products contain ingredients that enhance remineralization and reduce sensitivity. There are also advances in air polishing powders that make the procedure more enjoyable for the patient and clinician.

Regardless of the technique used or the frequency of the procedure, dental hygienists can use our prophyl paste and air polishing powder guide to help select the ideal products for their patients. You’ll see that these formulations have changed to meet the needs of various patient populations—a far cry from the pumice slurry used by dental hygienists in the early years of our profession. Innovations in materials and techniques are making life better for both the practitioner and patient.

Jill Rethman, RDH, BA

Editorial Director

Prophyl Paste

Editor’s Note: This list is inclusive of most prophyl pastes and air polishing powders sold in the United States. While every attempt has been made to be as comprehensive as possible, there may be inadvertent product omissions.

Company	Product Name	Grit	Flavors	Prophy	Restoratives	Active Ingredients	Dispensing Method	Unique Features
3M™ ESPET™ 3M ESPE	Clinpro™ Prophyl Paste	Transitions from coarse to fine	Bubble Gum, Mint	Yes	Yes	Perlite, sodium fluoride	Unit dose cups	Paste can be used for almost every polishing situation; unique formulation breaks down from coarse to fine grit; for use with cosmetic restorations that need no or delicate abrasives to those that need more abrasive polish; applies smoothly and doesn’t splatter
BIOTROL	Prophy Gems™	Fine, medium, coarse, extra coarse	Bubble Gum, Vanilla Orange, Cool Mint, Wild Berry, Cinnamon, assorted	Yes		1.23% fluoride pumice	Unit-dose cup in a convenient ring, 100 rings per box	Low splatter; easy rinsing; convenient, comfortable ring that is color-coded by flavor
Brasseler	HygienePro Glisten	Fine, medium, coarse, extra coarse	Mint, Chocolate, Cherry, Bubble Gum, Root Beer	Yes		Sodium fluoride	200 Unit-dose cups per box	Easy rinsing, splatter-free formula; consistency makes it easy to load; color coded grit and flavor system for easy identification
Crosstex International CROSSTEX™	Sparkle-Free™ Prophyl Paste	Medium, coarse	Cinnamon, Fruity, Spearmint, White Chocolate	Yes	Yes	Pumice, neutral pH, no chemically active ingredients	Single-use cups	Gluten-, dye-, and fluoride-free; contains xylitol; maximum stain removal, minimal enamel loss; splatter-free; optimal rinsability; ideal for patients during or after whitening and/or bleaching
	Sparkle™ Prophyl Paste	Fine, medium, coarse	Bubble Gum, Berrylicious Assortment (Strawberry/Blueberry/Raspberry) in coarse and medium grit, Cherry, Mint, Orange Vanilla, assorted flavors	Yes		1.23% active fluoride ion	Single-use cups	Gluten-free to eliminate allergic reactions associated with Celiac disease or gluten intolerance; optimal rinsability; time set formula reduces splatter; designed to provide excellent stain removal while minimizing enamel loss.
Denticator	Zooby™ Prophyl Paste	Fine, medium, coarse	Turtle Melon™, Gator Gum™, Chocolate Chow™, Happy Hippo Cake™, Growlin Grrrrape™, Spearmint Safari™, Animal Pack™	Yes		1.23% fluoride pumice	Unit-dose cups 100 per bag	Gluten-free with xylitol; autoclavable prophyl paste gripper with wide base; designed for low splatter and superior stain removal
	Fang Dango	Fine, medium	Bubble Gum, Grape, Cherry	Yes		1.23% fluoride pumice	Unit-dose cups 200 per bag	Childrens’ paste formulation packaged in a colorful, resealable bag
	Festival	Medium, coarse, coarse plus	Mint, Cinnamon, Cherry	Yes		1.23% fluoride pumice	Unit-dose cups 200 per bag	Adults’ paste formulation; low splatter final polish
	Sure Clean	Medium	None	Yes	Yes	Pumice	Unit-dose cups 200 per bag	Flavor free; fluoride free; designed for use prior to sealant application, orthodontic banding/bracketing, and bonded restorations

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Prophy Paste (continued)

Company	Product Name	Grit	Flavors	Prophy	Restoratives	Active Ingredients	Dispensing Method	Unique Features
DENTSPLY Professional 	NUPRO®	Fine, medium, coarse, plus	Strawberry Vanilla Swirl, Chocolate Bliss, Bubble Extreme™, Cherry Blast, Grape, Mint, Orange, Orange Vanilla Swirl, Razzberry, Zinnamon	Clean and polish		1.23% fluoride	Single-dose cups, jars	Splatter-free; gluten-free; easy to rinse; fresh flavor lock bag to maintain flavor quality
	NUPRO Shimmer®	Microfine	Spearmint		Yes	Aluminum oxide	Syringe	Safe for restorations to restore luster and shine without scratching; low splatter formula in a syringe for easy dispensing; low product waste
	NUPRO NUSolutions	Stain Removal, Polish	Spearmint, Peppermint, Citrus Mint	Yes	No	1.23 % fluoride	Single-dose cups	Fast relief of sensitivity (tubule occlusion), calcium phosphate technology of NovaMin, dye free, gluten free
Discus Dental 	BreathRx Prophy Paste	Fine, medium, coarse	BreathRx Mint, Mint, Bubble Gum, Orange	Polish		Sodium fluoride	Prophy cup	Low splatter formula with sodium fluoride; pumice-based for efficient stain removal; box of 200 individual unit dose cups
DMG 	Kolorz Prophy Paste	Fine, medium, coarse, extra coarse	Triple Mint	Yes		Sodium fluoride	Unit-dose cups	Gluten, aspartame- and saccharin-free; contains xylitol
	Kolorz Prophy Paste	Fine, medium, coarse	Cherry Burst	Yes		Sodium fluoride	Unit-dose cups	Gluten, aspartame- and saccharin-free; contains xylitol
	Kolorz Prophy Paste	Fine, medium	Carnival Pak (contains Cotton Candy and Blue Raspberry)	Yes		Sodium fluoride	Unit-dose cups	Gluten, aspartame- and saccharin-free; contains xylitol
Glitz Dental Co 	Glitz Premium Prophy Paste	Kid fine, medium, coarse	Blueberry, Chocolate, Marshmallow, Spearmint, Strawberry, Watermelon	Clean and polish		Fluoride	Individual cups, 200 cups per box	Enhanced stain remover, high polish
Henry Schein Inc 	Diamond Polishing Paste	Very fine	N/A		Yes	N/A	2 g syringe	Nontoxic, water soluble, heavy diamond concentration
	Uni-pro Prophy Paste	Fine, medium, coarse	Mint, Cherry, Orange	Clean		N/A	Jar	Gluten-free
	Acclean Prophy Paste	Fine, medium, coarse, extra coarse	Mint, Cherry, Bubble Gum, Raspberry	Polish		1.23% APF	Unit-dose cups	No splatter formula
IC Care Inc 	CPR Sapphire Prophy Paste		Minty		Yes	Alumina oxide	1 gram cups	Smooth, very creamy, no grit, removes up to four shades of stain
Ivoclar 	Proxylt	Fine, medium, coarse	Mint		Yes	Silica, pumice	Tube	Proxylt Fine does not contain pumice; recommended for esthetic restorations
Kerr 	PerfectPearl Prophy Paste	Fine, coarse	Mint and Bubble Gum	Yes		Perlite, fluoride	Unit-dose cups	Perlite breaks down from coarse to fine particles so it both cleans and polishes; maximizes cleaning, minimizes abrasion
Plak Smacker 	Brilliance	Medium, coarse	Mint Cherry	Yes		1.23% fluoride	Single-use cups	Available in four flavors; ideal for young children and teens
	Sweet Tooth	Medium	Chocolate, Berry, Watermelon, Cotton Candy	Yes		1.23% fluoride	Single-use cups	Ideal for cleaning and polishing with a pleasant taste for teens and adults
	Brilliance	Medium	No flavor	Yes		Pumice	Single-use cups	Excellent alternative for those who prefer no fluoride or flavoring
Medicom 	Denti-Care® Denti-Polish	Fine, medium, coarse	Bubble Gum (fine only), Cherry (medium only), Raspberry (coarse only), Mint (medium and coarse)	Clean and polish		1.23% fluoride ion from sodium fluoride	Unit-dose packaging	Nonsplatter consistency; fluoride enhanced formula; sweetened with xylitol; free of nuts, gluten, aspartame, and latex; fast stain and plaque removal; high polishing ability
Premier Dental Products 	Enamel Pro®	Fine, medium, coarse, extra coarse	Bubble Gum, Mint, Strawberry, Cinnamon, Grape	Clean and polish		Amorphous calcium phosphate (ACP), fluoride (mint available without fluoride)	Single-dose cups	ACP stimulates remineralization of tooth enamel; delivers fluoride and increases luster; gluten-free; colorful swirl design; popular flavors
	Glitter™	Fine, medium, coarse, extra coarse	Bubble Gum, Cherry, Mint, Strawberry	Clean and polish		Fluoride (mint available without fluoride)	Single-dose cups	Gluten-free, smooth, pliable, splatter-free
	Ziroxide™	Fine, medium, coarse	Mint	Clean and polish		Fluoride (available without fluoride)	Single-dose cups, 1-lb. jars	Gluten-free, creamy texture
Preventech 	Nada Pumice Paste	Medium	No flavor	Yes		N/A	Unit-dose cups	Non-splatter; tough on stain; ideal tooth prep paste; no fluoride; no flavor, no dyes
	Next Prophy Paste	Fine, medium, coarse, extra coarse	Mint, Cherry, BubbleGum, Tropical Fruit, Grape, Vanilla, Chocolate Mint, Cinnamon, Watermelon, Wintergreen, Spearmint	Yes		1.23% fluoride	Unit-dose cups	Non-splatter; flash rinses to a clean finish; tough on stains; great tasting flavors

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Prophy Paste (continued)

Company	Product Name	Grit	Flavors	Prophy	Restoratives	Active Ingredients	Dispensing Method	Unique Features
Sultan Healthcare Inc	Topex® Prophy Paste	Fine, medium, coarse, extra coarse	Cherry, Mint, Pina Colada, Chocolate Mint, Bubble Gum, Really Raspberry, Root Beer Float, Cinnamint, Chocolate, Vanilla, Strawberry	Yes		Fluoride	Unit-dose cups (2 g)	11 flavors; blend of pumice to remove stains and polish enamel; rinses clean
	Topex Composite Polishing Paste	Fine	Peppermint		Yes	Corundum	Syringe (4 g)	Creates a high-level polish and lustre; patient-pleasing flavor allows for intraoral use; rinses clean
	Topex Brilliance Diamond Polishing Paste	Fine	Peppermint		Yes	Diamond	Syringe (3 g)	Restores original smoothness; patient-pleasing flavor allows for intraoral use; rinses clean
Sunstar (GUM®, Butler®, Guidor®, SUNSTAR)	Butler® Prophy Paste	Fine, medium, coarse, coarse plus	Bubble Gum, Cherry, Mint	Yes	Yes	Pumice	Disposable cup	Excellent for stain removal but gentle on enamel; splatter-free formula; contains 1.23% fluoride
	Butler Paste-Free Prophy	Fine	None	Yes		Pumice	Disposable prophy angle	Prophy cup embedded with pumice; eliminates the need for separate prophy paste
Ultradent	UltraPro Tx	Fine, medium, coarse	Cool Mint, Walterberry, Bubble Gum	Yes		Fluoride and potassium nitrate	Single-use compule	Splatter-free formula; popular flavors (including dye-free); rinses easily and completely to eliminate residual grittiness; gluten-free
Waterpik	Waterpik® Prophy Paste	Fine, medium, coarse, plus	Bubble Gum, Cool Mint, Very Cherry, Exotic Fruit	Clean and polish		Fluoride	Unit-dose cups	Tough on stains and plaque; significantly reduces splatter; low price; four great-tasting flavors/grits
	Soft Shine™ Polishing Paste	Ultra fine	Mint	Polish		None	Unit-dose cups	Safe on veneers, composites, gold, porcelain, and natural teeth
Young Dental	D-Lish® Prophy Paste	Fine, medium, coarse	Berry Bliss™, Key Lime, Mint Medley™, AssortMint™, Mint, Fresh Strawberries™, Dreamside Orange, Cinnamon, Cherry, Grape	Yes		1.23% fluoride, pumice	Unit-dose cups, 200 per bag	Many flavors available for patients to choose; all flavors contain 1.23% fluoride
Zila	Smoothie™ Prophy Paste with Fluoride	Fine, medium, coarse, extra coarse	Mint, Cherry, Grape, Bubble Gum	Yes		Fluoride	2-gram individual paste cups	Premium stain remover and polisher; non-splatter formulation is available in a variety of flavors and grits, including assortment boxes

Air Polishing Powder

Company	Product Name	Grit	Flavors	Clean	Polish	Restorative	Active Ingredients	Dispensing Method	Unique Features
Acteon North America (Satelec & Sopor Co.)	Powder Max	97 – 160 µm	Mint, Lemon	Yes	Yes	Yes	Sodium bicarbonate	Bottle (250 g)	Small gradual size for safe use on implants and restoratives; bacterial quality is rigorously controlled.
Biotrol™ BIOTROL	Perfect Choice Air Polishing Powder	N/A	Cool Mint	Yes			Sodium bicarbonate	Bottle with squirt cap	Ready to use; designed to work with any polishing unit
Dentsply DENTSPLY PROFESSIONAL	Prophyjet® Prophy Powder		Mint	Yes	Yes	No	Sodium bicarbonate	Air polishing	
	Cavitron® Jetfresh® Prophy Powder		Mint	Yes	Yes	Gold and porcelain are OK; avoid margins	Aluminum trihydroxide	Air polishing	Sodium free; equipment-friendly formulation
EMS	Airflow® Classic	65 µm	Lemon, Mint, Tropical, Cherry, Cassis, Neutral	Yes	Yes	No	Sodium bicarbonate	Bottle (300 g)	Ideal for removing heavy stains; specially treated to be hydrophobic to promote uniform powder flow; no clogging
	Airflow® Perio	25 µm	Neutral	Yes	Yes	Yes	Glycine	Bottle (120 g)	Specially designed ultrafine powder for subgingival air polishing; for use with EMS Airflow Master and Airflow handy Perio air polishers
	Airflow Soft	65 µm	Neutral, slightly sweet taste	Yes	Yes	Yes	Glycine	Bottle (200 g)	Glycine based; ideal for regular use and for patients with sodium restrictions; soft compound; specially treated to be hydrophobic for uniform powder flow
Kavo	Prophy Pearls	67 µm	Neutral, Berry, Cherry, Orange	Yes	Yes	Yes	Sodium carbonate	Jet	Round pearl-like structure results in gentler treatment; no chemical reaction to air humidity; no clogging
OSpray sufec	Sylc™ SmarTip and Sylc™	Medium	Neutral	Yes	Yes	No	Calcium, sodium, phosphosilicate (Novamin)	Disposable tip intended for use with standar air polishing equipment	Therapeutic cleaning, polishing, desensitizing and regenerative powder
Young Dental	Air Polishing Powder	N/A	Spearmint	Yes			Sodium bicarbonate	Unit-dose packet	Easy flow formula; designed for use with any air polishing unit