



How do I determine when an instrument needs to be sharpened?

- Use a test stick or PingRing™ to check the cutting edge. Ensure the cutting edge is adapted to the test material. (See photo below.)
- Reduced biting ability: more strokes required to effectively remove deposit, increased lateral pressure needed.
- Calculus may burnish due to the rounded cutting edge.

How often should I sharpen?

Several factors to consider:

- How many kits/set-ups do you have?
- How often is each kit/set-up being used each day?
- Are you scaling tenacious calculus deposits?
- Do you have a few go to instruments that you use over and over while the others remain untouched?
- Research shows that an instrument cutting edge begins to round after 15 strokes.

(Moses O, Tal H, Artzi A, Sperling A, Zohar R, Nemcovsky CE. Scanning electron microscope evaluation of two methods of resharpener periodontal curets: A comparative study. J Periodontal. 2003;74:1032-1037)



How often should I replace my instruments?

A reduction of an instrument's width or length by at least 20% usually means it is time to replace.

(Moses O, Tal H, Artzi A, Sperling A, Zohar R, Nemcovsky CE. Scanning electron microscope evaluation of two methods of resharpener periodontal curets: A comparative study. J Periodontal. 2003;74:1032-1037)

TRY PDT'S INSTRUMENT LIFESPAN CALCULATOR™

Find out how often you should replace your instruments!

