

Thermoplastic Tips

Warming

Before beginning the warming process make sure your water bath is at the temperature specified in the users manual. Using water which is not the correct temperature can contribute significantly to an uneven hole pattern in the mask once it is pulled. Once your water bath is at the proper temperature place the thermoplastic in the water. Follow the heating times outlined in the thermoplastic manual. Under or overheating the mask can compromise the quality of the mask.



Forming Thermoplastics

When thermoplastic has been in the waterbath for the appropriate amount of time, pull it out of the water and remove excess water from the thermoplastic.

Carefully form the thermoplastic over the patient and dock the mask onto the baseplate. Gently form the thermoplastic around the bony anatomy of the patient such as the nasion and chin. Make sure the thermoplastic is lying evenly on the patient's skin and the patient is still in the desired position for treatment.



Cooling and Storing

It is important to completely cool thermoplastics before removing them from the patient. Heat in the thermoplastic indicates it hasn't finished setting. Removing thermoplastics while still warm may result in additional shrinking as the heat dissipates from the mask without the benefit of an anatomical stopping point.

To help with the cooling process, CIVCO offers a few simple solutions. Cold Spray can be sprayed across the molded cast to speed cure time. The Cold Mitt contains pliable gel to conform to the body contours, speeding the cooling of formed thermoplastics. Store in the freezer; the internal gel remains flexible to -20°F (-28°C). Some departments simply use a cool, damp towel to speed the cooling process.



Remove thermoplastic by turning swivel clamps or disengaging T-Pins. Holding the frame to the table while pulling the T-Pin will ease disengagement. Finally, thermoplastics should be stored safely and at room temperature until they are no longer needed for the patient.

