

Thermoplastic Fixation Mask

Instructions for use

Pre Simulation

- Ensure the water bath has suitable water levels and the temperature is set between 65°C and 70°C
- Insert the bolts into the mask frame and ensure they are functional; leaving them in the unlocked position
- Lay a clean towel on an easily accessible work bench close to the water bath
- Prepare the ice packs or cooling mitts

Simulation

- Position the patient on the appropriate baseplate in a stable and comfortable position with suitable head and neck support, double shim, knee rest and shoulder retractors (if required)
- Place the mask into the water bath. The mask will become transparent when it is ready for moulding
 - For thicknesses of 2.4mm please allow between 50 – 60 seconds
 - For thicknesses of 3.0mm please allow up to approximately 90 seconds
- Remove the mask from the water bath using tongs, place it onto the towel and pat it dry. Flip the mask and repeat the process to ensure excess water is removed
- Pre-stretch the face of the mask approximately 10 – 15cm using the back of your hand. This will minimise the pressure felt on the patient's face, reducing the likelihood of head movement; increasing patient comfort and assisting staff during the initial stages of moulding



- Hook the mask over the patient's chin, press the mask down at a steady rate until the frame contacts the baseplate and lock the bolts into position. Gently shape the thermoplastic to the contours of the patient (nose, chin, cheeks, neck and shoulders)
- Cool the mask for a total of 8 – 10 minutes: we recommend 3 minutes of natural cooling and 5 minutes using ice packs to cool the frame and thermoplastic. The mask will return to a solid opaque colour once it has set. Removing the mask before it has cooled can result in additional shrinkage and patient discomfort

Post Simulation

- Dry the mask and store it appropriately in a cool storage area away from direct sunlight
- Optional: Once the mask has cooled, take the mask off the patient and refit it to confirm the suitability of fitting

Please note: Small areas can be cut out of the mask to increase patient comfort; however, excessive removal of thermoplastic material may permanently weaken the mask.