

Top OSHA Violations in Dentistry

What's new with OSHA?

- OSHA is showing up unannounced in TN as part of the Local Emphasis Program (LEP).
- An LEP is a targeted enforcement strategy by OSHA.

State dental boards issue fines and penalties for violation of infection control standards through the Dental Practice Act.

- Ensure you have a detailed, written Infection Control Plan.



Violation of Bloodborne Pathogens Standard requirement for an Exposure Control Plan.

The plan was not reviewed annually.

The annual review must be documented. Be sure the plan is accessible.

Examples of recent violations:

<https://modernpracticesolutions.com/tosha-2025/citation/roundup/>



Violation of the Bloodborne Pathogens Standard.

- The practice did not have documented proof of soliciting input from employees for the evaluation of safer medical devices.
- The office did not have engineering and work practice controls in place to eliminate or minimize employee exposure.
- Understand the procedures for an exposure incident, including documentation requirements and required/recommended vaccinations.



Violation of the Eye and Face Protection General Requirements

- Appropriate eye and/or face protection was not in use. Safety glasses must meet the ANSI Standard Z87.1.



Violation of the Bloodborne Pathogens Standard requirement for engineering and Work Practice Controls.

- Contaminated reusable sharps were not placed in containers that were labeled or color-coded in accordance with the standard.



Violation of Bloodborne Pathogens Standard Housekeeping requirement.

- The Practice was not maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.
- Implement an appropriate written housekeeping schedule.



Violation of Hazard Communication Standard Information & Training requirement.

- The Employer did not provide employees with effective training on hazardous chemicals in use.



Violation of Hazard Communications Standard SDS requirement.

- SDS were not accessible.
- Maintain a chemical inventory listing all of the chemicals in the workplace.
- Note: Changes to SDS come into effect in 2026 and again in 2028.



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Violation of Hazard Communication Standard.

- Containers of chemicals were not labeled with the identity of the chemical and words, pictures, symbols, or statements indicating the hazards of the chemical.



Violation of the Hazard Communication Standard.

- The Practice did not have a hazard communication program.



Violation of Medical First Aid requirements.

- The Practice did not have an appropriate eyewash station where employees were exposed to corrosive materials.
- Eyewash stations must meet ANSI requirements and recent OSHA standard interpretations.



Violation of the Emergency Action Plans & Fire Safety requirements.

- Portable fire extinguishers were not provided, mounted, or properly identified throughout the facility.



Violation of the General Duty Clause.

- The worksite was not free from recognized hazards.
- In dentistry, musculoskeletal disorders resulting from ergonomic hazards are a major concern.



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