

SUBCHAPTER 16J - SANITATION

SUBCHAPTER 16J - SANITATION, STERILIZATION, AND INFECTION CONTROL

21 NCAC 16J .0101 PREMISES

- (a) The premises of a dental facility shall be kept free of rubbish and any substances that create a hazard, as follows:
- (1) all floors shall be free of obstacles to cleaning;
 - (2) reception areas, hallways, treatment areas, office facilities, and other walking surfaces shall be free of obstruction;
 - (3) all equipment and instruments that have been used for patient dental care shall be handled in accordance with Rule .0103 of this Subchapter; and
 - (4) solid wastes and medical wastes shall be handled and disposed of in accordance with 15A NCAC 18A .1300, which is incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments.
- (b) The premises shall be kept free of all insects and vermin.
- (c) Water shall be piped under pressure to all equipment and fixtures where the use of water is required. The water supply shall meet the requirements in 15A NCAC 18A .1700 or 15A NCAC 18C, which are incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments.
- (d) All plumbing shall comply with applicable local plumbing ordinances and with the North Carolina State Plumbing Code, which is incorporated by reference, including subsequent amendments and editions, and is available at no cost online at <https://www.ncosfm.gov/codes/codes-current-and-past>.
- (e) Comfortable and sanitary conditions for patients and employees shall be maintained at all times, as follows:
- (1) floors, including carpeted areas, shall be kept clean, dry, odor free, and in good repair;
 - (2) walls and ceilings shall be kept clean and in good repair;
 - (3) doors, windows, and window treatments shall be kept clean and in good repair;
 - (4) equipment, furniture, and light fixtures, including in reception areas, shall be kept clean and in good repair;
 - (5) rooms shall be heated, cooled, and ventilated to maintain a temperature between 65°F (19°C) and 85°F (30°C), and ventilation equipment shall be kept clean and in good repair; and
 - (6) moisture shall be controlled such that there is no evidence of microbial growth on interior surfaces and objects.
- (f) All liquid and human waste, including floor wash water, shall be disposed of through trapped drains into a public sanitary sewer system in localities where such system is available. In localities where a public sanitary system is not available, liquid and human waste shall be disposed of in accordance with 15A NCAC 18A .1300 and 15A NCAC 18C.
- (g) There shall be functioning toilet facilities on the premises of every dental office. The toilet facilities and fixtures shall be kept clean and in good repair, and shall conform to standards set out in 15A NCAC 18A .1300.
- (h) No animals shall be allowed in any area of a dental office where clinical work is being performed, except service animals in accordance with G.S. 168-4.2 and the Americans with Disabilities Act, or certified facility dogs. For purposes of this Rule, a "certified facility dog" shall be defined as a dog that is trained and certified by a program that is accredited by or a member of Assistance Dogs International, Animal Assisted Intervention International, or a similar organization whose purpose is to promote standards of training, placement, and utilization of assistance dogs (an "assistance dog program"). While in the dental office, the facility dog shall be handled by a dentist, dental hygienist, dental assistant, or other employee designated by the dentist who is trained and certified by an assistance dog program.
- (i) For purposes of this Rule, "clean" means washed and free from dirt, grime, bodily fluids or tissue, foreign material, or unwanted matter. "Good repair" means capable of being cleaned and used for its intended purpose in a safe manner.

History Note: Authority G.S. 90-41(a)(23); 90-48;
Eff. September 3, 1976;
Readopted Eff. September 26, 1977;
Amended Eff. April 1, 2015; May 1, 1989;
Pursuant to G.S. 150B-21.3A, rule is necessary without substantive public interest Eff. January 9, 2018;
Amended Eff. June 1, 2021.