



# AN INTRODUCTION TO IMPRESSION MATERIALS

DR SHRUTI MISHRA

SENIOR LECTURER

DEPT OF PROSTHODONTICS

# IMPRESSION

- ▶ An impression is defined as a negative likeness of the mouth. It is a negative imprint of the teeth and the surrounding oral tissues.



# Why make an impression?

- ▶ Models provide a three-dimensional view of the oral structures, thus aiding in diagnosis and treatment planning.
- ▶ Many restorations or appliances are best constructed on casts. It may be inconvenient to both dentist and patient if these have to be made directly in the patient's mouth.
- ▶ Models can be used to educate the patient.
- ▶ They serve as treatment records.
- ▶ By using casts, technical work can be passed on to technicians, saving valuable clinical time.



- A set of casts poured from an impression.

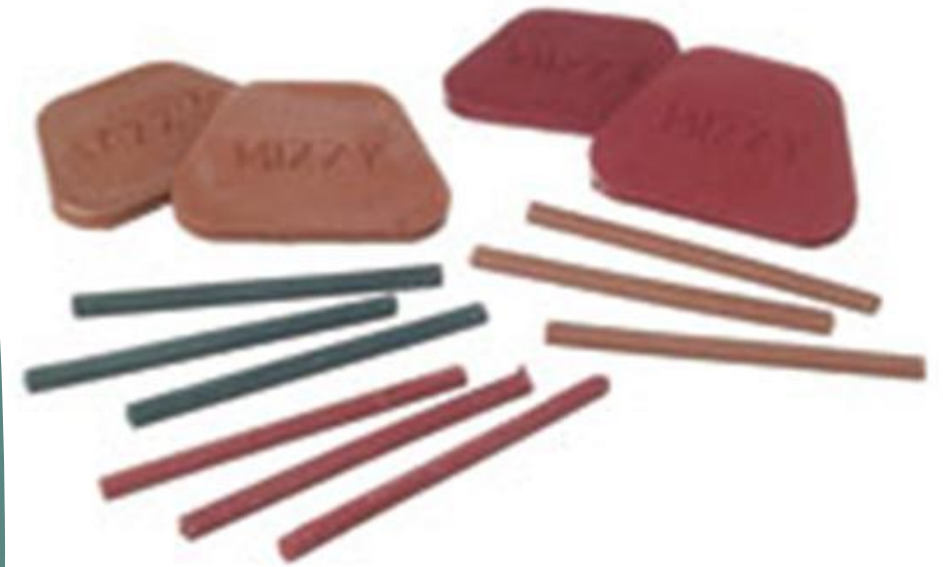




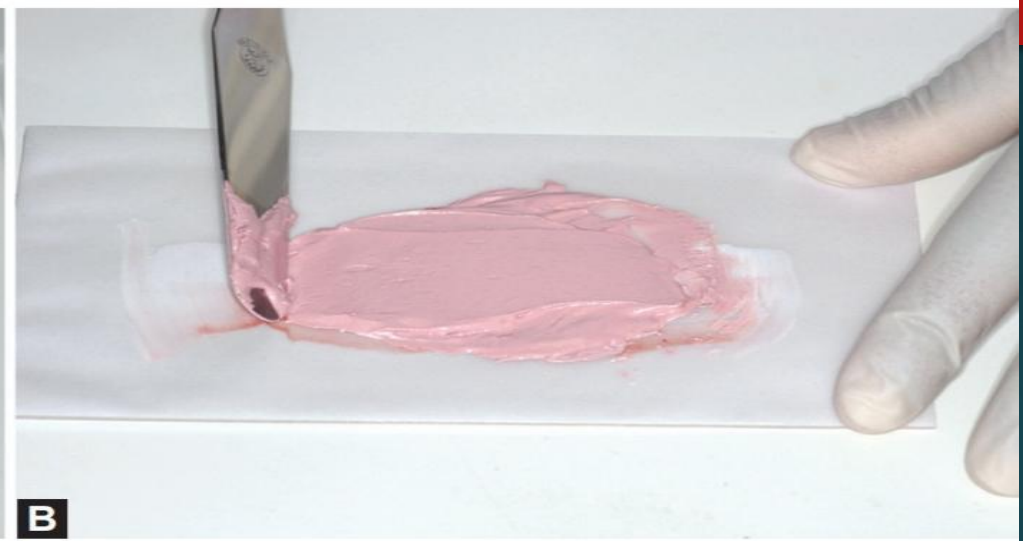
# AVAILABILITY OF IMPRESSION MATERIALS

Impression materials are available in a variety of forms such as :-

- ▶ Cakes - (impression compound)
- ▶ Sticks (Greenstick compound)
- ▶ Powder- packs or jars (alginate)
- ▶ Putty form (light body material)
- ▶ Pastes (ZOE)



# READYING A MATERIAL



# Types of impression

- ▶ Depending on arch
  1. Upper or maxillary impression
  2. Lower or mandibular impression
  
- ▶ Depending on when the impression is made
  1. Primary impression
  2. Secondary impression





- ▶ Sectional impression



# IMPRESSION TRAYS

- ▶ A metallic or plastic container which houses the impression material in it and is used to make an impression
  
- ▶ The types of impression trays are :-
  1. Stock trays
  2. Custom trays
  
- ▶ They can also be classified as :-
  1. Edentulous trays
  2. Dentulous trays

flanges



floor

handle



# CLASSIFICATION

There are several ways of classifying impression materials.

- ▶ 1. According to mode of setting and elasticity.
- ▶ 2. According to tissue displacement during impression procedure.
- ▶ 3. According to their uses in dentistry.

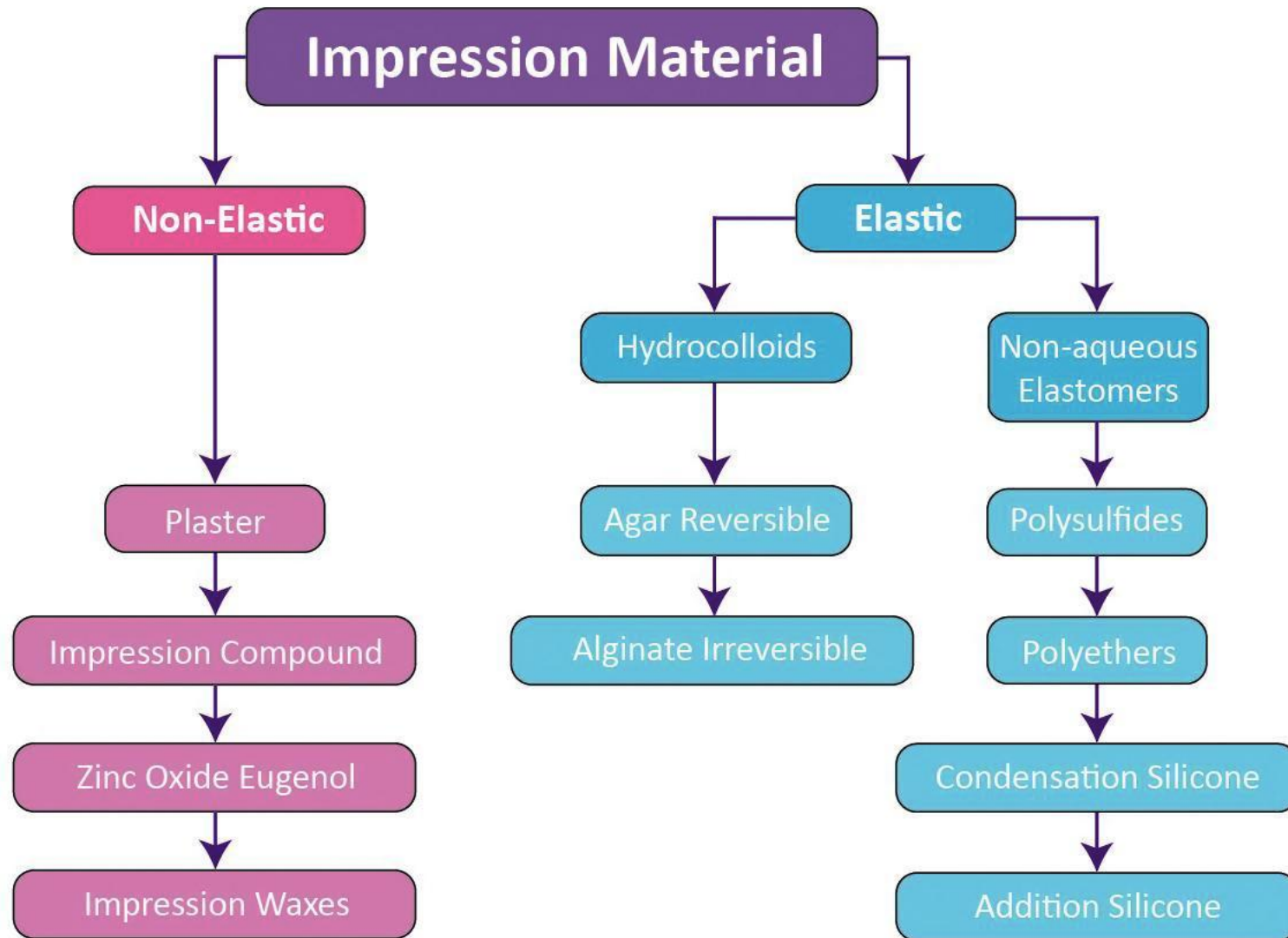


<i>Mode of setting</i>	<i>Rigid</i>	<i>Elastic</i>
Set by chemical reaction (irreversible or thermoset)	Impression plaster Zinc oxide eugenol	Alginate hydrocolloid Nonaqueous elastomers -e.g. polysulfide, silicone
Set by temperature change (reversible/ thermoplastic)	Compound, Waxes	Agar hydrocolloid

**IRREVERSIBLE-** cannot be brought back to its original state. Cannot be reused.

**REVERSIBLE** - can be brought back to its original state. Can be reused.

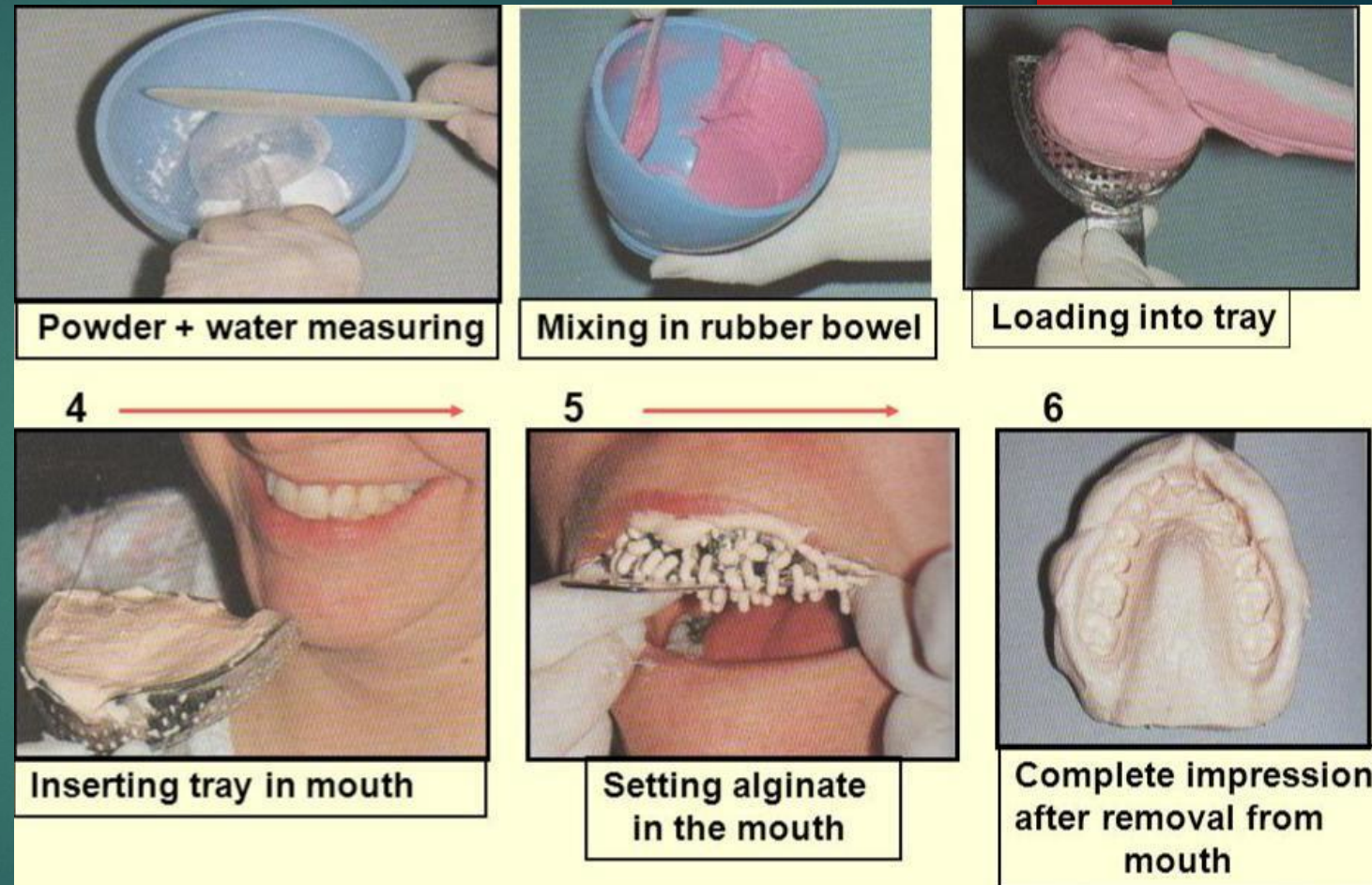
**THERMOPLASTICS** can melt under heat whereas **THERMOSET** remain solid under heat after curing



- ▶ Depending on whether tissues are displaced while making impressions a material may be-

1. Mucostatic- produce minimal displacement of the tissue during impression, e.g. plaster, zinc oxide eugenol, low viscosity alginates, low viscosity elastomeric materials, etc.

2. Mucocompressive (Mucodisplacive) more viscous and displace the tissues while recording them, e.g. compound, high viscosity alginates, high viscosity elastomers, etc.





## ▶ **Impression materials used for complete denture prosthesis** **Impression plaster**

Impression compound and impression paste set to a hard rigid mass, and hence cannot be removed from undercuts without the impression being fractured or distorted. Therefore these materials are best suited for edentulous mouth.

## ▶ **Impression materials used for dentulous mouths**

On the other hand alginates and rubber base impressions are sufficiently elastic to be withdrawn from undercut areas. Such elastic impression materials are suitable for impressions for fabrication of removable and fixed partial denture prostheses, where the impressions of the ridge and teeth are required.

# TERMINOLOGIES

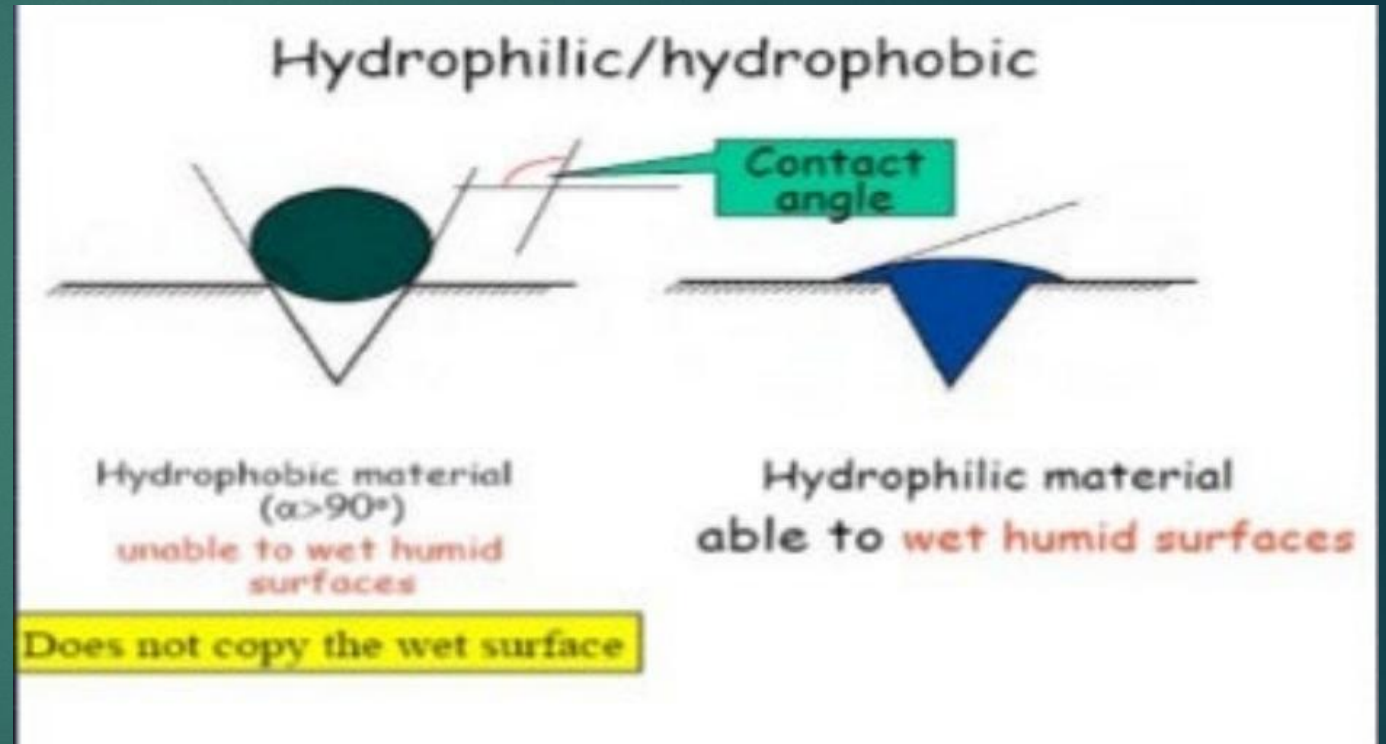
- ▶ Mixing time (MT)- start of mixing to completion of mixing
- ▶ Working time (WT)- time available for manipulation of material in mouth (completion of mix – initial set)
- ▶ Setting time (ST)- time at which material is set and cannot be further manipulated



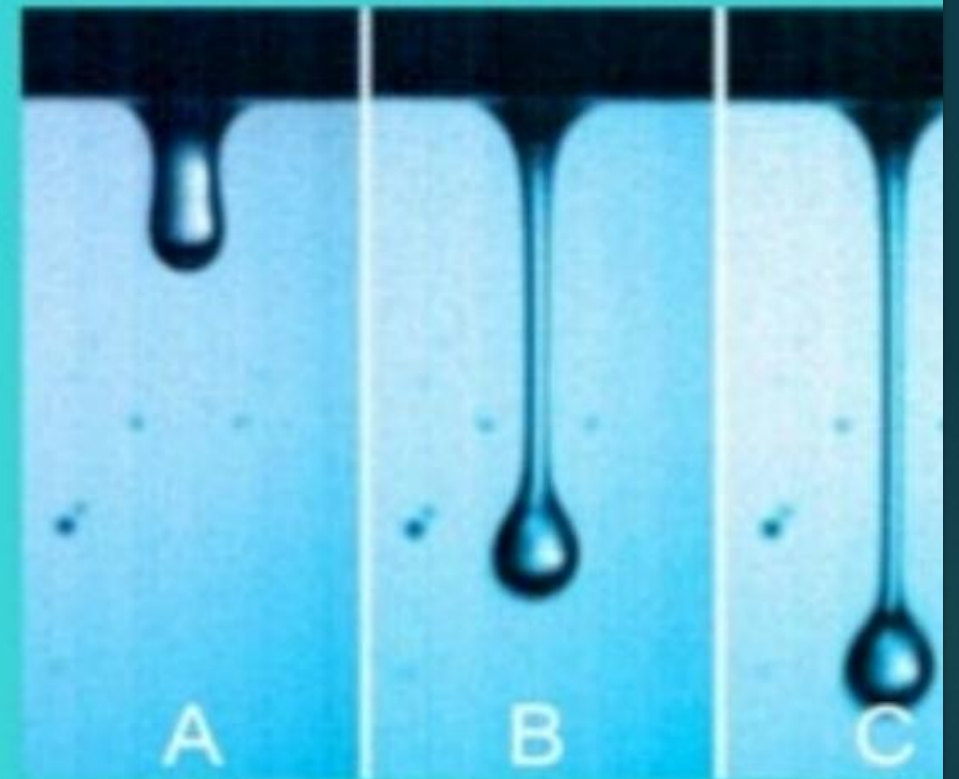
# Requirements / Desirable properties

## Factors affecting accuracy

- ▶ High flow to record the dental arch accurately
- ▶ The material should be able to wet and adapt to the oral tissues (hydrophilic)



# Viscosity



A has highest  
viscosity  
C is the most  
fluid  
B is inter-  
mediate

- ▶ The material should be of low viscosity



Prepared  
tooth

Impression  
material

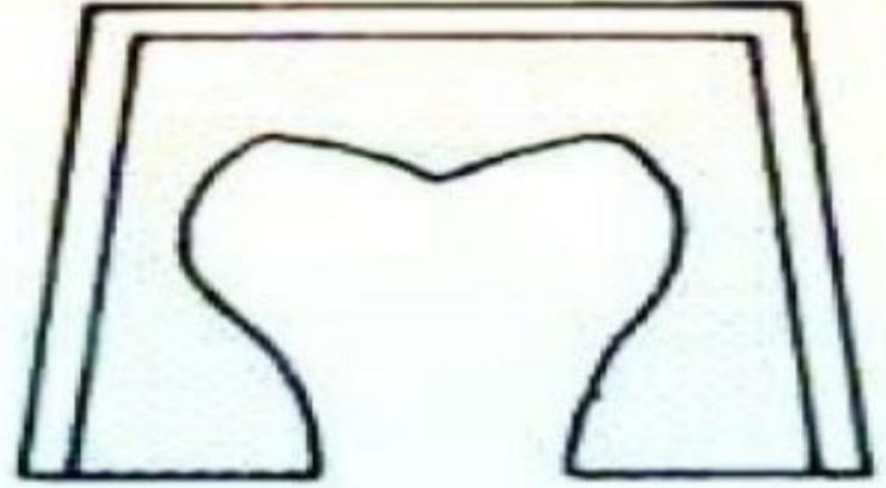
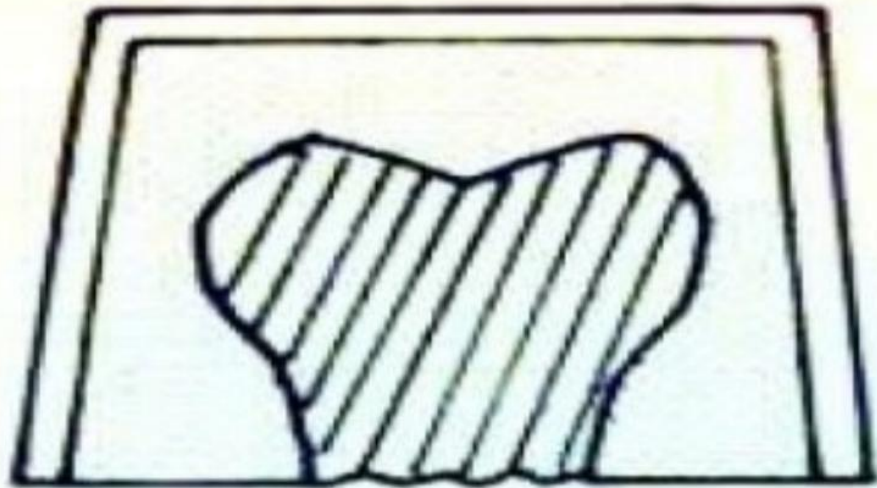
Compromised flow in small  
details - too high viscosity  
and hydrophobicity

- ▶ Resistant to tearing or fracture upon removal from the patient mouth
- ▶ Retain accuracy outside patients mouth (dimensional stability)
- ▶ Easy disinfection without loss of accuracy
- ▶ Compatible with model or cast materials





- ▶ Dimensionally accurate during setting for accurate recording of tissues. (No expansion or contraction)
- ▶ Flexible after setting to be removed from the mouth



After removal [Ideal]



## Acceptability for the patient

- ▶ Non toxic, non irritant, tasteless and odourless
- ▶ Pleasant taste
- ▶ Reasonable setting time



- ▶ Good handling property
- ▶ Easy to mix and without extensive equipment
- ▶ Viscous enough to not flow out of the tray
- ▶ Adequate working time to load material into tray



- ▶ Adequate shelf life



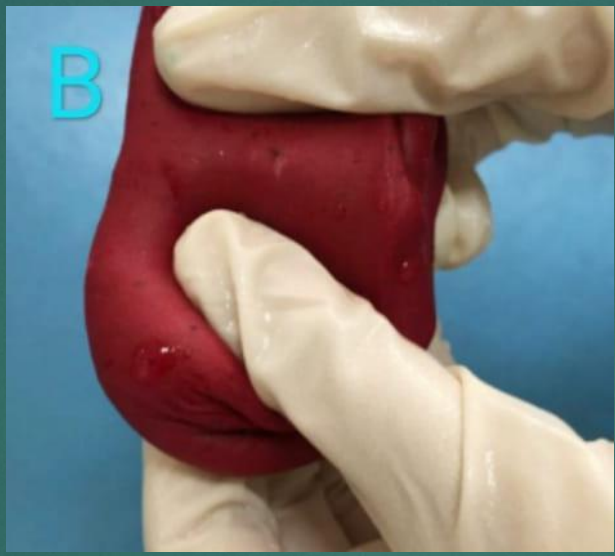
► Reasonable cost



NO IMPRESSION MATERIAL FULFILS ALL THESE REQUIREMENTS



MATERIAL SELECTION IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE DENTIST ON A  
CASE BY CASE BASIS







Water Measuring Cup

Alginate Powder & Scoop

Spatula

Mixing Bowl

Maxillary Tray

Mandibular Tray







a. Mixing



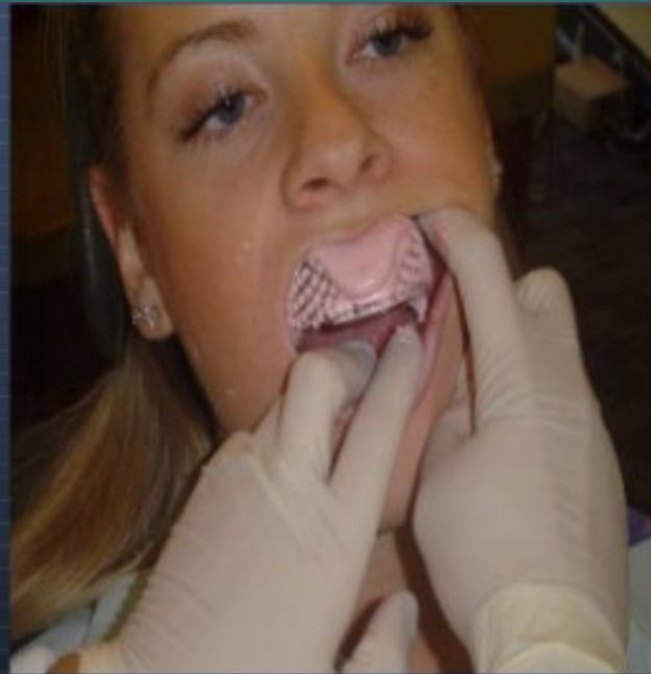
b. Loading the lower or upper tray



c. Insertion while the material is still soft



d. Holding the tray in place.



e. Removal of the tray.



f. Wash the impression

