

SUCTIONING

Suctioning is the process of removing foreign matter, such as mucus, fluids or blood, from a victim's upper airway. There are two types of suctioning devices:

- **Manual** suctioning units are operated by hand (Figure 1). Because they do not require an energy source, they avoid some of the problems associated with mechanical units.
- **Mechanical** suctioning units are electrically powered and produce a vacuum that is powerful enough to suction substances from the throat (Figure 2). They operate on batteries, which must be checked to ensure they are fully charged or have batteries that can be constantly charged.

Several sizes of sterile suction catheters should be kept on hand for use, depending on the type of unit and size of the victim.



USING A MANUAL SUCTIONING DEVICE

Note: Always follow standard precautions when providing care. If needed, assemble the device according to manufacturer's instructions.

1 POSITION THE VICTIM

- Roll the body as a unit onto one side.
- Open the mouth.



2 REMOVE DEBRIS FROM THE MOUTH

- With a gloved finger, sweep out any visible large debris.

3 MEASURE AND CHECK THE SUCTION TIP

- Measure from the victim's earlobe to the corner of the mouth. Note the distance to prevent inserting the suction tip too deeply.
- Check that the suction is working by placing your finger over the end of the suction tip as you squeeze the handle of the device.



4 SUCTION THE MOUTH

- Insert the suction tip into the back of the mouth.
- Squeeze the handle of the suction device repeatedly to provide suction.
- Apply suction as you withdraw the tip using a sweeping motion, if possible.
- Suction for no more than **15** seconds at a time for an adult, **10** seconds for a child and **5** seconds for an infant.

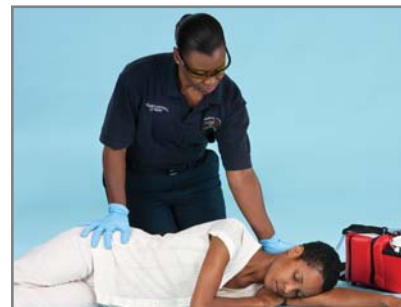


USING A MECHANICAL SUCTIONING DEVICE

Note: Always follow standard precautions when providing care. If needed, assemble the device according to manufacturer's instructions.

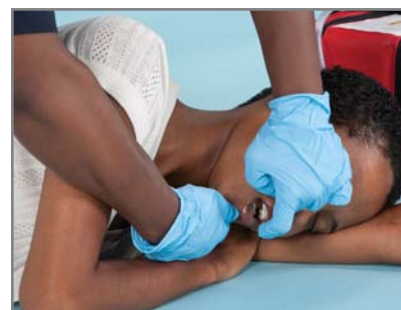
1 POSITION THE VICTIM

- Roll the body as a unit onto one side.
- Open the mouth.



2 REMOVE DEBRIS FROM THE MOUTH

- With a gloved finger, sweep out any visible large debris.



3 MEASURE THE SUCTION TIP

- Measure from the victim's earlobe to the corner of the mouth. Note the distance to prevent inserting the suction tip too deeply.

4 TURN ON THE MACHINE AND CHECK THE SUCTION TIP

- Follow the manufacturer's instructions.



5 SUCTION THE MOUTH

- Insert the suction tip into the back of the mouth.
- Withdraw the tip using a sweeping motion, if possible.
- Suction for no more than **15** seconds at a time for an adult, **10** seconds for a child and **5** seconds for an infant.

