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## Tech Tip: Micro Abrasive Sandblasting Tips and Advice to Ensure Success

Micro abrasive sandblasting equipment are used in many industries, [general](#) and [dental](#), with great success, but it's well known that these machines can become a nuisance quickly if not properly maintained. Below are a few basic [Micro Abrasive Sandblasting](#) tips and advice that will improve the blasting experience.

### 1. Clean and Dry Abrasive

Clean, dry, compressed air is one of the most important items needed for proper operation of a [micro abrasive sandblaster](#). Contamination by water and or oil will cause clumping of the [abrasive](#) in the [jar](#), preventing the abrasive from flowing freely to the [blasting tip](#). It is also important to store abrasives in a clean dry container to ensure moisture in the air does not contaminate the abrasive. Also, the size of the abrasive being used (e.g. [50 microns](#)) must fall within the size indicated on the top of the jar (e.g. [50-100 microns](#)) so the abrasive will flow evenly to the tip. The [blasting tip](#) size must also be compatible with the size of the abrasive to ensure an even flow.

### 2. Irregular Flow

If the flow of abrasive from the tip is uneven or nonexistent, remove the tip from the hand piece and check for a blockage in the tip. If the tip is free of any obstructions, the most likely cause of the problem is a blockage in the jar. [Contact a Vaniman technician](#) for instructions on how to clear the blockage.

### 3. Refilling Abrasive

The new style [jar](#) with the screw on lid used in all [Vaniman blasters](#) for the past 10 years allows the operator to fill the jar easily. Care needs to be taken to ensure that abrasive is not allowed to build up in the threads of the jar or the lid. If a build up is allowed to occur, the abrasive will cause the jar and lid surfaces to become rough and in some cases cause air leaks or be difficult or impossible to unscrew the lid. Also, the [O-ring](#) in the lid must be in place at all times to ensure a proper seal to prevent abrasive from moving into the jar threads which can also cause the lid to be difficult to remove. A clean lid should screw on the jar with little resistance until you feel the [O-ring](#) engage the top of the jar. Continue tightening the lid with moderate pressure. It is not necessary to apply extreme force to achieve an air tight seal.

### 4. Replacing The Blasting Tip

When replacing the [blasting tip](#) in the hand piece, make sure the small black [O-ring](#) is in place behind the new tip. Each new tip comes with a new [O-ring](#). Operating the blaster without this [O-ring](#) will result in the abrasive cutting a hole in the side of the nozzle cap over time.

### 5. Using a Dust Collector

Use a [dust collector \(General or Dental\)](#) to reduce the blasting cloud and remove excess [abrasive](#) from the [blasting cabinet](#). During the blasting process the abrasive is broken up into dust leaving a cloud in the cabinet. This makes it hard to see what's being blasted so adding a [dust collector](#) will completely get rid of the cloud. It is very difficult to have a 100% clean blasting cabinet but to help reduce the excess abrasive blasting should be directed towards the dust collection port.

We strongly advise following these tips to ensure successful blasting with and longevity of [Vaniman's micro abrasive sandblasters](#).