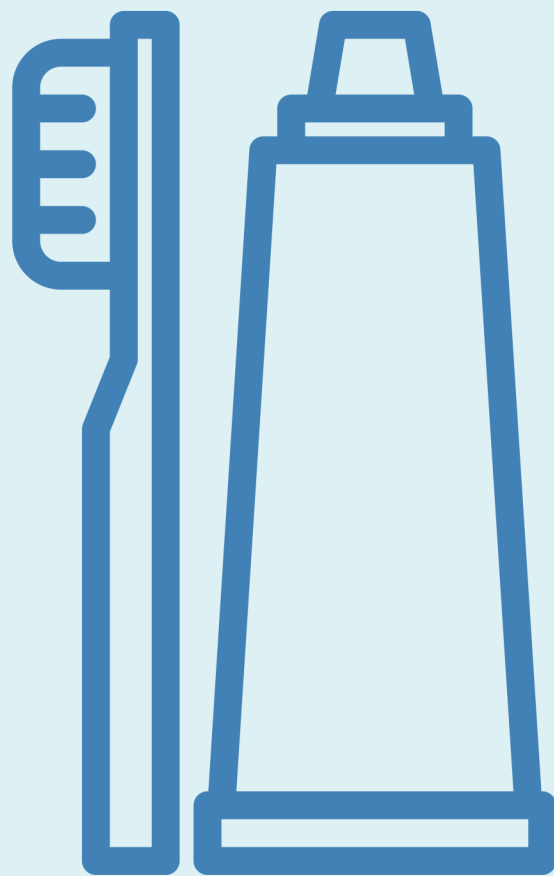


Oral Care Tools and Dementia



Goal: Safety and Comfort

Toothbrush

A toothbrush provides the friction needed to remove build-up and it is a familiar tool. Even if your loved one has no teeth or wears dentures that are cleaned regularly, a soft-bristled toothbrush should still be used on the tongue, gums, and roof of the mouth.



Oral Swab

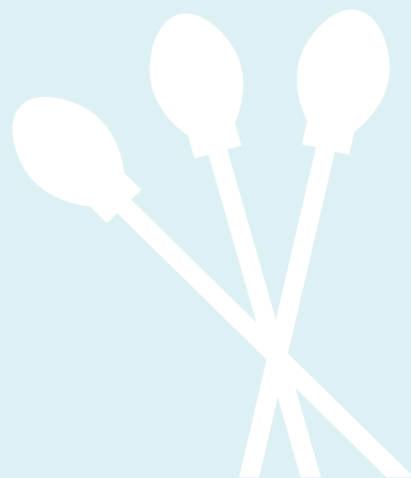
Oral swabs can be used effectively to moisten the mouth. However, oral swabs do not provide the same oral care quality as a toothbrush. And for some, they pose a choking hazard.



Lemon Glycerin Swab

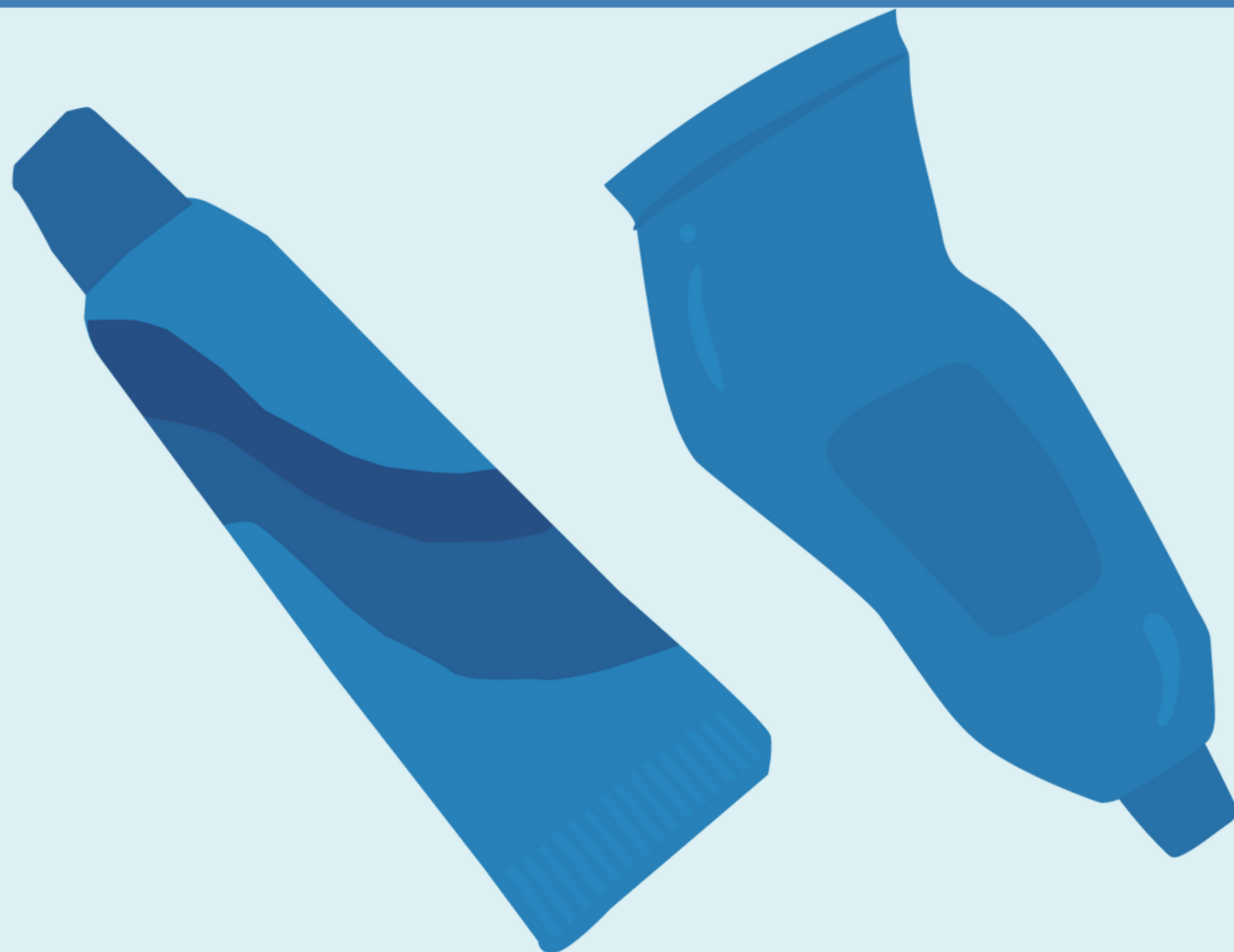
Lemon glycerin swabs are NOT oral care. They are drying and can cause dental erosion.

There are new studies and studies more than 2 decades old that tell us this.



Toothpaste

Your loved one may prefer the taste and texture of certain toothpastes over others.



Mouthwash

A doctor and dentist can tell you the proper mouthwash to use. A medicated mouthwash may be required, or one that targets dry mouth, or an alcohol free mouthwash. A speech language pathologist can assist you in determining the best method for using the mouthwash if your loved one can no longer swish and spit.



A PHYSICIAN CAN REFER YOU TO A **SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST** WHO CAN HELP TRAIN CARE PARTNERS IN SAFE ORAL CARE STRATEGIES AND AN **OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST** WHO CAN ASSIST IN INCREASING INDEPENDENCE WITH ORAL CARE. THESE PROFESSIONALS CAN HELP YOU DETERMINE THE BEST TOOLS AND PROTOCOL FOR YOUR LOVED ONE.

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