



Custom Silicone
Cosmeses



Custom Silicone from Steeper.

At our Silicone Clinic in Kingston, we invest in devising the most natural coverings for both upper and lower limb prostheses, as well as cosmetic restorations and individual digits.

Designed bespoke to individual requirements, our custom silicone cosmeses are sculpted in-house at our Silicone Clinic, and in close consultation with the patient.

Each cosmesis we create is sculpted by hand to meet patients' specific requirements and has a remarkably realistic appearance and feel. Skin pigmentation, freckles, veins, hair and even tattoos can be incorporated to ensure an authentic finish.

Unlike many similar products, our fabrication techniques involve colouring the silicone material prior to sculpting, as opposed to surface painting. This process allows the layering of different shades of silicone to give a translucent finish to the cosmesis, achieving an effect similar to natural skin.

Products within the range include:

- Individual fingers and toes
- Partial feet
- Lower limb covers
- Partial hands
- Upper limb covers
- Custom liners
- Cosmetic restorations

Further details, including how to follow the Spectromatch colour matching process is presented overleaf. If you have any questions or to place an order with the Silicone Clinic, please contact silicone@steepergroup.com.

To hear how we have helped to create positive turning points for patients through these products, please visit www.steepergroup.com





Custom Silicone Cosmeses with Spectromatch Colour Matching

Using Spectromatch, our unique electronic colour matching process, we deliver a near perfect match to an individual's skin shade. Our Spectromatch system stores up to 22,000 colours and offers a far superior colour matching process than traditional swatches.

This system stores a large number of colours, and regardless of the lighting conditions, numerous measurements can be taken and accurate colour options recorded in a matter of minutes, providing excellent results on the finished product.

Please see the following sections for the step-by-step guide to the process of casting, photographing and colour matching with Spectromatch for custom silicone cosmeses.

Step 1) Photography

Digital images are required to see details of colour blending, hair, veins, freckles and tattoos. Digital images of all aspects of the sound limb should be provided, including close-ups of the nail detail.

Step 2) Cast and casting modifications

Cast modification ensures the finished prosthesis fits intimately over the residual limb. For hands, feet and digital restorations, an overall reduction of 15 to 20 percent is required to enable correct suspension and comfort. Use alginate or silicone to take exact moulds and fill with white stone plaster, with a solid bar inserted into the affected side casts.

Please note the casts required in the next section.

Casts required

For digits

- Positive rectified cast of the affected side
- Positive cast of the sound side

For hands

- Positive rectified cast of the affected side, 25mm (1") above the styloid
- Positive cast of the sound side, 25mm (1") above the styloid

For upper limbs*

- Positive cast of the sound side

For feet

- Positive rectified cast of the affected side, 25mm (1") above the maleoli
- Positive cast of the sound side, 25mm (1") above the maleoli

For lower limbs*

- Positive cast of the sound side

*Please ensure that the prosthetic limb that is to be covered is supplied.

Step 3) Check socket manufacture

We recommend a check socket fitting for all partial hand, partial feet and cosmetic restorations, to ensure comfort and suspension are both satisfactory. These clear silicone check sockets will automatically be sent within 7 to 10 days of receiving the casts.

Step 4) Colour Matching

A Spectromatch camera can be obtained from the Silicone Clinic. You may receive either of our simple to use cameras, along with the relevant instructions.

Step 5) Charging

Ensure that the camera has sufficient charge prior to the patient attending. The larger Minolta takes 4 x AA batteries and the small eSkin camera can be charged from any high power USB port on a computer or mains adaptor.

Step 6) Calibration

The camera you receive must be calibrated. Switch the camera on and put the cover over the lens. Press the 'measure' button to take a reading. This function is slightly different on each camera, but the steps are equally simple. Failure to calibrate may have a detrimental effect on the accuracy of the colour measurements taken.

Step 7) Taking a measurement

Remove the cover from the lens, position it over the area of skin to be colour matched and press the 'measure' button. Each camera has a system to indicate how accurate the colour match is in comparison with the nearest one found in the camera's memory.

With the Minolta, avoid any number with a '++' after it. Similarly, with the eSkin, avoid a number that shows a red bar. In either case, move the camera slightly and repeat the process. Continue until the chart has been completed and all obvious colour differences have been recorded.

Step 8) Recording the measurements

Record the numbers on the appropriate Spectromatch charts. These are available to download from our website. The Minolta can only store ten measurements at a time and the eSkin will record many more, but it is recommended to record the numbers throughout the process. The Spectromatch charts can be completed on the computer and emailed directly to the Silicone Clinic.

Step 9) Fabrication

Our fabrication techniques involve colouring the silicone material itself prior to sculpting. This process allows the layering of different shades of silicone to provide a translucent finish to the cosmesis, achieving an effect similar to natural skin. Moulds are taken locally using alginate, and we supply a check socket for all restoration jobs to ensure the perfect fit.

Training will be provided for new customers if required. Contact silicone@steepergroup.com for further information or to place an order.



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