



Technical Bulletin 0005

Cleaning 316 Stainless Steel

Many accessories in the Dissolution Lab which come in direct contact with the Dissolution Media, are made from 316 Stainless Steel. These accessories typically include:

- Paddle/Basket Shafts
- Baskets
- Sampling Cannula
- Capsule Sinkers

316 Stainless Steel is a relatively expensive material which is reflected in the initial cost of these products. 316 Stainless Steel provides excellent general chemical inertness and corrosion resistance which is further enhanced by passivation and or electro polishing during the manufacturing process.

Quality Lab Accessories (QLA) recommends the following general guidelines to maintain these accessories and to provide the maximum possible service life:

1. Upon receipt from Quality Lab Accessories, all new products should be cleaned before use due to the possibility of contamination during transit.
2. Never use abrasive materials or cleansers on stainless steel.
3. Thoroughly rinse and dry these accessories *immediately* after *each* use.
4. Thorough rinsing with DI water may be sufficient depending on the specific dissolution media used and the product being tested.
5. When a cleaning agent must be used, use only mild nonabrasive laboratory cleansers specifically formulated and recommended for use on stainless steel and polymers when present.
6. Always rinse thoroughly with DI Water after cleaning with a cleaning solution.
7. After final rinse, thoroughly dry with a clean soft cloth.
8. Sampling Cannula should be power flushed using a syringe or other means to insure adequate cleaning of the cannula bore.
9. Sampling Cannula should be purged with clean dry air or some other inert gas after the final rinse.
10. When using ultrasonic cleaners, be sure that the heat setting is safe for any polymers which may be present.
11. If heat is used for drying, do not exceed the maximum recommended temperature for any polymers which may be present. When polymers are not present, do not exceed 90 deg C.

Some cleaning solution sources:

Alconox – Phone (914) 948-4040
Web page – www.alconox.com

Micro-90
Cole-Parmer – Phone (800) 323-4340

Components which have become dull, tarnished, discolored or show signs of corrosion should be removed from service. These items may possibly be restored by re-passivation and/or re-electro polishing. Contact Quality Lab Accessories for this service.