

OPTIC-4 Inlet Cleaning Procedure

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1. Scope

This document describes the OPTIC-4 inlet cleaning procedure. The procedure is also detailed in the OPTIC-4 User's Guide, chapter 11.2

2. Cleaning Procedure

If carryover or background contamination is evident in the chromatogram, and the problem has been traced to the OPTIC-4 inlet, it should be cleaned as described below.

In general, it is advisable to establish a cleaning schedule for your inlet on a regular basis. Depending on the cleanliness of the sample, the cleaning frequency can range from a few weeks for dirty samples to a few months for clean samples.

1. Cool the inlet and the host GC oven to the ambient temperature.
2. Turn the OPTIC-4 controller and the host GC off.
3. Remove the inlet top boss, take out the liner and disconnect the column from the inlet bottom.
4. Take a cotton swab, moisture it with solvent and wipe the inlet inside repeatedly. Start from the inlet bottom and move it up to the top. Take a clean swab and repeat the procedure again. Change the cotton swab several times until it remains clean after the inlet is wiped.
5. Take a beaker or other glass container and place it underneath the inlet. Rinse the inlet with a small amount of clean solvent several times. Use a laboratory pipette or a syringe. Only the inlet bore should be rinsed. Avoid solvent on the other parts of the inlet.
6. Wait until the inlet is dry. Insert a clean empty liner in the inlet, screw the top boss on and connect your regular column to the inlet bottom.
7. Enter the following standby parameters in the Evolution Workstation software by selecting Configuration - Standby:
 - *Split valve state:* *Split*
 - *Inlet temperature:* *450 °C*
 - *Column flow:* *as low as possible*
 - *Split flow:* *200 mL/min*
8. Activate these parameters and purge the inlet for 30 minutes.
9. Test the system to see if the carryover has disappeared.
10. If carryover is still present, repeat steps 1 to 7.

If carryover is still present contact your supplier.