

Cleaning of incubation baskets

A number of users of the InsituPro VS or InsituPro Upgrade want to clean the incubation baskets after each run for economic reasons. This is possible for a number of times with a suitable protocol and if some restrictions are observed. The baskets are made from high density, clear polypropylene and have a hydrophobic surface. The cleaning procedure described below will slowly oxidize this surface and make it hydrophilic. InsituPro VS users did extensive experiments and reported these observations:

- When the columns are cleaned more than about 7-8 times there will be problems with detergent membranes stretching across the columns on which the next reagents are layered onto, leaving the specimens dry. The effect was observed with the small size incubation columns and could clearly be related to repeated cleaning.

Cleaning procedure:

1. Rinse the incubation baskets with water
2. Put baskets in 2-3% hydrogen peroxide solution for 10 min up to 2-4 hours at room temperature.

This step should remove cellular debris sticking to the basket.

3. Rinse the incubation baskets with deionized water
4. Rinse incubation baskets with 100% ethanol or methanol and dry them at room temperature or up to 50°C.

Note: The alcohol used should not contain any oily denaturing agent which will form a film on the column wall.

5. Store the cleaned incubation baskets at an appropriate, RNase free place (e.g. plastic box).