

CARE AND USE OF DROP DISPENSERS FOR LEVITATION STIR BALLS

1. Place Levitation Stir Balls in a small beaker and cover with aluminum foil. Sterilize levitation stir balls by autoclaving or heating in a hot air oven at 150°C for 1 hour.
2. Using the thumbscrews on the Drop Dispenser, adjust the alignment of the Dispenser to the top of the microplate to which the Levitation Stir Balls will be dispensed. While pulling the Dispenser's plastic trigger, visually check that the holes of the Dispenser line up with the wells of the microplate by looking straight down on the Dispenser as it is resting on the microplate. Do not over-tighten the thumbscrews, the Dispenser should be loose enough to easily lift off of the microplate.
3. Disinfect the Drop Dispenser by soaking in a 10% bleach solution followed by sterile water rinses and an additional rinse in alcohol.
4. Carefully pour about twice the needed number of Levitation Stir Balls into the appropriate Levitation Stir Ball Drop Dispenser and gently swirl the Levitation Stir Balls while holding the dispenser level to fill the empty stirrer holes. The Dispenser does not need to be on the microplate during this step.
5. When all the holes are full, tilt the Dispenser with the Dispenser ramp over a sterile beaker and swirl the dispenser so the excess Levitation Stir Balls slide down the ramp into the beaker.
6. Ensure that there is only 1 Levitation Stir Ball per hole. Note holes where the Levitation Stir Balls were accidentally dislodged and replace them.
7. Place the dispenser on a sterile microplate and dispense the Levitation Stir Balls by pulling on the plastic trigger to align the top plate holes with the holes in the bottom plate. Repeat pulling the trigger a few times and visually verify that each Levitation Stir Ball has fallen through the holes.
8. To recover Tumble Stir Elements from microplates or tubes, use a V&P Scientific Magnetic Replicator with the VP 770 Magnet Recovery System or the VP 772 Stir Element Removal Systems if sample is to be left behind. If the sample has been removed simply invert the plate and catch the Tumble Stir Elements in a beaker.
9. Cover the beaker with aluminum foil and demagnetize the Tumble Stir Elements by passing them over the VP 781 Demagnetizer or another commercial demagnetizer.
10. Clean the Tumble Stir Elements using detergents appropriate to the application. Sterilize and dry the Tumble Stir Elements by autoclaving or baking in a hot air oven.