

FAQs for V-Cide®

Chemical Vapor Sterilant Solution



What is V-Cide?

It is a liquid chemical sterilant designed for use in Barnstead Thermolyne® (formerly known as Harvey®) Chemiclave® Sterilizers. This equipment is used to sterilize medical and dental instruments and equipment. V-Cide may be used in place of Vapo-Steril® solution and is compatible with all models of Chemiclaves. V-Cide, like Vapo-Steril, should not be used in steam autoclave sterilizers.

How is V-Cide different from Vapo-Steril?

The special Certol V-Cide formula is tested and approved to provide effective sterilant action with reduced fumes by eliminating irritating ketones and acetones.

Will I use V-Cide any differently than I use Vapo-Steril?

Use V-Cide in the exact same way. Do not dilute, use full-strength. Follow the Chemiclave sterilizer manufacturer's directions for filling the device with solution.

What are the appropriate precautions for using V-Cide?

Like Vapo-Steril, V-Cide contains formaldehyde, an essential component for sterilant action. Safety experts recommend use of Chemiclave sterilizers with built-in or add-on filter systems and adequate ventilation in the room or area. Also like Vapo-Steril, V-Cide is a transient eye irritant. Workers should wear correct PPE (goggles or safety eyewear, masks and water-resistant neoprene utility gloves) when handling V-Cide, filling the sterilizer tank, or disposing of exhausted solution.

Will V-Cide rust or corrode instruments or leave a residue?

No. One of the main benefits of chemical vapor sterilization is the low water content (below 15 %) of the sterilant solution. This protects metal instruments, especially high carbon burs and instruments with cutting edges or box locks, from corrosion during the sterilization process.

Why is it important to dry instruments prior to sterilization in the Chemiclave?

Residual water on instruments will interfere with the sterilization process and contribute to corrosion or spotting.

Is V-Cide compatible with most instrument metals and materials?

V-Cide is compatible with all Barnstead Thermolyne "Harvey" Chemiclaves and may be safely used to sterilize surgical stainless steel and carbon steel. Some items may be

safely sterilized in steam autoclaves but not in chemical vapor systems, so check manufacturer's instructions for handpieces and plastic goods before attempting sterilization in chemical vapor systems. Polysulfones, epoxy, polyphenylene oxide, polyester and polypropylene plastics are usually compatible but polycarbonate plastic goods should not be sterilized in a chemical vapor system.

How do I dispose of V-Cide?

Unused expired solution and used solution drained from the Chemiclave must be disposed of as chemical hazard waste through an approved chemical disposal service regardless of quantity. Check with your local or state EPA office for specific regulations.

Do I need to drain out and clean my Chemiclave of existing Vapo-Steril solution prior to using V-Cide?

No, you may immediately start using V-Cide. There will be noticeable odor until the old Vapo-Steril solution is completely flushed through the system.

Sometimes my pouches turn brown in the sterilizer. Is this caused by the V-Cide solution?

No. Unlike other sterilizers, Chemiclaves do not automatically turn off at the end of the cycle. The continual heat may discolor packaging if items are left in the hot chamber.

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