

FAQs for V-Cide®

Chemical Vapor Sterilant Solution



What is V-Cide?

It is a liquid chemical sterilant designed for use in chemical vapor sterilizers such as the Harvey® Chemiclave®. Although chemical vapor sterilizers and steam autoclaves are both used

for heat sterilization of instruments, V-Cide is not indicated for use in steam autoclaves.

I previously used Vapo-Steril®. Is V-Cide acceptable for use in chemical vapor sterilizers?

Yes. V-Cide is tested with FDA clearance to market as a sterilant solution effective for use in chemical vapor sterilizers and has reduced fumes and odor. V-Cide is used the same way as Vapo-Steril®. Do not dilute and do not re-use the solution. Follow the Chemiclave® manufacturer's directions for filling the device with solution and draining used solution.

How do I start using V-Cide?

It is not necessary to drain all the previous solution. Add V-Cide to the tank of the chemical vapor sterilizer as usual. There may be noticeable odor until the last traces of the previous product are used up. Drain the sterilizer of used solution as usual according to manufacturer's directions. Dispose of used solution according to local and state regulations via approved chemical disposal services.

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

No. One of the benefits of chemical vapor sterilization is the low water content (under 15%) of the sterilant solution. Instruments are less likely to corrode and edges stay sharp longer.

Why is it important to dry instruments prior to sterilization in chemical vapor sterilizers?

Residual water left on instruments may interfere with effective sterilization and could contribute to corrosion or spotting.

Is it necessary to bag or package instruments for sterilization in chemical vapor sterilizers?

Yes, CDC Guidelines for Infection Control recommend that all items be packaged to maintain sterility. As with steam sterilization, make sure the packaging and total load are arranged to allow full penetration of the chemical vapor into each package or pouch. Due to the low moisture content of V-Cide Chemical Vapor Sterilant Solution, many types of chemical indicators may not turn as dark as they do in steam autoclaving.

Is V-Cide compatible with most instrument materials?

V-Cide is safe for use with materials recommended by manufacturers for sterilization in chemical vapor sterilizers and may be used for sterilization of most metallic instruments. Check manufacturer's instructions for power hand pieces or plastic items before using the chemical vapor sterilant process.

What are the appropriate precautions for using V-Cide?

Use personal protective equipment (PPE) as directed on the product Safety Data Sheet: Wear eye protection, chemical resistant gloves, mask and appropriate clothing to prevent repeated or prolonged skin contact. Avoid spilling V-Cide on exposed skin or splashing in eyes. V-Cide is flammable and should be stored away from sterilizers in a dry, cool area. Keep away from open flames. Use in a well-ventilated area. When running and opening the chemical vapor sterilizer at end of cycle, avoid direct inhalation of vapors or use a filter system. Keep container closed between uses.

Harvey, Chemiclave and Vapo-Steril are registered trademarks of Thermo Scientific.

Reference: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines for Infection Control in Dental Health-Care Settings - 2003.