



Chemical Resistances
for
Beckman Coulter
Centrifugation Products

**CAUTION**

The information provided here is from references, from current literature, or from research done by Beckman Coulter, Inc., and is only a guide for the selection of materials. No guarantee of safety based on these recommendations is expressed or implied. Many of the chemicals are explosive when concentrated or dry, or are toxic, caustic, allergenic, or carcinogenic. Observe proper handling as outlined by your laboratory safety officer.

INTRODUCTION

This table indicates the general chemical resistances of various materials to a number of chemicals commonly used in procedures involving Beckman Coulter centrifuges and accessories. You can select a chemical and determine the resistance of listed materials to the selected chemical—either satisfactory (S), marginally satisfactory (M), unsatisfactory (U), or unknown (X). Marginal resistance listings may be a combination of S and U resistances.

Materials are listed alphabetically. Chemicals are listed alphabetically by their most common name within seven categories (acids, bases, salts, gradient-forming materials, solvents, detergents, and other). Where applicable, an IUPAC (International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry) name is shown beneath a trivial chemical name. Chemicals are either undiluted liquids or saturated (unless otherwise noted) aqueous solutions. Materials that have unsatisfactory or marginal resistance to the high concentrations used for these tests may be usable in very low (that is, millimolar) concentrations.

TEST YOUR SOLUTION UNDER OPERATING CONDITIONS IF MATERIAL PERFORMANCE IS UNCERTAIN.

Soak tests at $1 \times g$ (at 20°C) established the data for most of the materials. In some cases the resistances of tube materials also reflect their performance under centrifugation. Thus, although alcohols (for example) may be stored satisfactorily in polycarbonate or in Ultra-Clear containers, ethanol will destroy these tubes in a short period of high-speed centrifugation. This combination of material and chemical is therefore listed as U in the table. Not all combinations have been tested under the stress of centrifugation, however. Again, pretesting under actual run conditions is strongly advised.

The data for centrifuge and rotor finishes is derived mainly from splash tests in which the finish was exposed to the chemical for a matter of minutes. Satisfactory resistance under long-term exposure should not be assumed.

DECONTAMINATION OF ALUMINUM ROTORS AND ACCESSORIES

While a number of solutions are commercially marketed for use in removing radioactivity from contaminated materials, many are too harsh for use on anodized aluminum. Beckman Coulter has tested a number of solutions and found two that do not harm anodized aluminum:

- IsoClean Solution (for soaking) or RadCon Surface Spray (In U.S.A., contact Nuclear Associates [New York]; in Eastern Europe and Commonwealth States, contact Victoreen GmbH [Munich]; in South Pacific, contact Gammasonics Pty. Ltd. [Australia]; in Japan, contact Toyo Medic Co. Ltd. [Tokyo].)
- Radiacwash (In U.S.A., contact Biodex Medical Systems [Shirley, New York]; internationally, contact the U.S. office to find the dealer nearest you.)

While Beckman Coulter has tested these methods and found that they do not damage components, no guarantee of decontamination is expressed or implied. Consult your laboratory safety officer regarding the proper decontamination methods to use.

If a rotor and/or accessories are contaminated with toxic or pathogenic solutions, follow appropriate sterilization or disinfection procedures as outlined by your laboratory safety officer.

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Chemicals
IUPAC Name

Chemical	acetal copolymer (celcon)	acrylic (plexiglass)	alumina (Al ₂ O ₃)	aluminum ⁷	anodic coating ⁷	nitrile rubber (Buna N)	acetal homopolymer (Delrin)	synthetic rubber (EPDM)	epoxy resin	epoxy resin/carbon composite	polyethylene terephthalate polyester film (Mylar)	neoprene	polyphenylene oxide (PPO) (Noryl)	nylon (6, 6/6)	paint, water-based	polyethylene terephthalate (PET)	polycarbonate	polyethylene (HDPE)	polyethylene (LDPE)	polypropylene	polystyrene	polysulfone	polyurethane liner	polyurethane paint	polyvinyl chloride (PVC)	polyphenylsulfone (PPSU) (Radex)	teflon (PTFE) (Rulon A)	silicone elastomer (RTV) (Silastic)	silicone rubber	stainless steel	titanium	flexible polyvinyl chloride (PVC) (Tygon)	polyetherimide (PEI) (Ultem)	polyethylene terephthalate glycol (PETG) (Ultra-Clear)	synthetic rubber (Viton)	polyphenylene sulfide (PPS)		
SALTS (aq) (continued)	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
magnesium chloride	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
nickel salts	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
potassium bromide	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
potassium carbonate	S ²	M ¹	S	M	U	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
potassium chloride	S	S	M	U	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
potassium permanganate	S	S ²	S ¹	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
silver nitrate	S	S	S	U	S	M	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
sodium borate	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
sodium carbonate	S	S	S	M	U	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
sodium chloride	S	S	S	S	U	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
sodium nitrate	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
sodium sulfate	S	S	S	S	U	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
sodium sulfite	S	S	S	S	S ²	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
zinc chloride	S	S	S	S	U	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
zinc sulfate	S	S	S	S	U	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	
GRADIENT FORMING MATERIALS (aq)																																						
cesium acetate	S	S	S	M	X	S	S	S	S	S	X	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	X	
cesium ethanoate	S	S	S	M	X	S	S	S	S	S	X	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	X	
cesium bromide	S	S	S	M	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	X	

S = satisfactory resistance

M = marginal resistance

U = unsatisfactory resistance

X = unknown

= Flammability hazard. The Centrifuge instrument is not designed for use with materials capable of developing flammable or explosive vapors, or with materials which could react chemically with sufficient vigor to cause a HAZARD. Do not centrifuge such materials nor handle or store them near the centrifuge. Vapors may be ignited by exposure to electrical contacts. Depending on the centrifuge type, such exposure could occur either during normal centrifugation or under failure conditions.

¹discoloration

²below 26°C only

³explosion hazard due to possible material/chemical reaction under rotor failure conditions

⁴dilute solutions satisfactory

⁵below 21°C only

⁶nonaqueous

⁷most aluminum components have anodic coating finishes

⁸avoid high temperatures at high concentrations

⁹nickel acetate unsatisfactory

¹⁰vegetable oils may be marginal or unsatisfactory

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

anodized coating	a thin, hard layer of aluminum oxide formed electrochemically on aluminum rotor and/or accessory surfaces as a protective coating for corrosion resistance
Buna N	black nitrile rubber used for O-rings and gaskets in rotor assemblies
Delrin	thermoplastic material (acetal homopolymer) used for most tube adapters
EPPDM	ethylene propylene rubber used for O-rings and pad adapters
HDPE	high density polyethylene used for adapters
LDPE	low density polyethylene used for tubes and bottles
neoprene	black synthetic elastomer used for O-rings in some tube caps and bottle cap assemblies
Noryl	modified thermoplastic polyphenylene oxide (PPO) used for floating spacers (part of the <i>g</i> -Max system) and some polycarbonate bottle caps
PET	polyethylene terephthalate used in some adapters
Polyphenylene Sulfide	(PPS) used in cap closures and other products as specified
Radel	polyphenylsulfone (PPSU) used in plugs, cap closures, canisters, and other accessories
Uitem	polyetherimide (PEI) used in adapters, covers, and spacers
Viton	fluorocarbon elastomer used in high-temperature applications

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