



CARE AND USE OF LEVITATION STIR BALLS AND DROP BALL DISPENSERS

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. Disinfect the Drop Ball Dispenser by soaking in a 10% bleach solution followed by sterile water rinses and an additional rinse in alcohol.
3. 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.
4. When all of the holes are full, tilt the Dispenser with the Dispenser ramp over a sterile beaker and swirl the dispenser so most of the excess Levitation Stir Balls slide down the ramp into the beaker.
5. Ensure that there is only 1 Levitation Stir Ball per hole. Note holes where the Levitation Stir Balls were accidentally dislodged.
6. Place the dispenser on a sterile microplate and dispense the levitation stir balls by pulling on the plastic knob to align the plenum holes with the holes in the Dispenser platform. Repeat this process 3 times and visually verify that each Levitation Stir Ball has fallen through the holes. **Do not align the holes by pulling on the top edge of the plenum right angle as this will “bow” the plenum and balls will jam between the plenum and dispenser platform.**
7. Magnetize the Levitation Stir Balls in the microplate by placing it on the Magnetic Levitation Stirrer™. Adjust the speed potentiometer to obtain the desired speed. **Do not use the speed controller to stop the stirrer; use the on/off switch.**
8. To recover Levitation Stir Balls from microplates, simply place a microplate lid on the magnetic block, pass the magnet block slowly over the top of the microplate to pull the Levitation Stir Balls out of the wells. Position the magnetic block over a beaker and remove the microplate lid from the magnetic block so the Levitation Stir Balls fall into the beaker.
9. Cover the beaker with aluminum foil and demagnetize the Levitation Stir Balls by passing them over the VP 781 Demagnetizer or other commercial demagnetizer.
10. Clean the Levitation Stir Balls using detergents appropriate to your application. Sterilize and dry the Levitation Stir Balls by autoclaving or baking in a hot air oven.