

Rtx[®]-5MS Columns

IMPORTANT—Please Read First!

Rtx[®]-5MS columns were specifically developed to provide extremely low bleed when using mass spectrometers (MS), mass selective detectors, ion traps, and GCDs. Proper installation is critical in achieving a high degree of inertness and low column bleed for analyzing semivolatile pollutants. Please refer to the instruction sheet accompanying the column test chromatogram and the following operating hints to ensure the best column performance.

- Small amounts of oxygen (air) or moisture diffusing into the carrier gas through leaks can cause polymer decomposition and result in higher bleed levels. This decomposition takes place at GC oven temperatures greater than 150°C. Therefore, do not elevate the column temperature above 100°C until an air and water check has been completed. (For details on conducting an air and water check, refer to the instruction sheet attached to the test chromatogram or your instrument manual.)
- Use caution when interpreting the GC/MS bleed chromatogram obtained using a blank run. Many data systems use an autoscale feature that normalizes the intensity axis to the largest peak in the chromatogram. If no component peaks are present, then the bleed level will be drawn to the full scale, giving the illusion that the column has high bleed. The most accurate way to monitor column bleed is to inject a known concentration of a component during a temperature programmed run according to your method conditions.
- It is important to frequently recheck for leaks. Leaks can be caused by the shrinkage of Vespe^l[®]-type ferrules after repeated heating and cooling. To eliminate this problem, periodically check the tightness of Vespe^l[®]-type ferrules after the first three temperature programmed runs and then periodically thereafter.

Call Technical Service at 800-356-1688 or 814-353-1300, ext. 4 (or your local Restek representative) if you have any questions about this product or any other Restek product.



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