

In the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control guidance for environmental cleaning in non-healthcare facilities, it is reported that a solution with a 70% concentration of ethyl alcohol is effective against two coronaviruses types (mouse hepatitis virus and transmissible gastroenteritis virus) when it is applied for one minute on the surfaces ^[1]. These guidelines are in line with standard OKOLAB cleaning recommendations.

Here is a brief reminder for general cleaning recommendations of OKOLAB products:

- **Touch Screen Units (i.e. OKO-TOUCH, LEO, ...):** this is exposed to a high contamination risk as it is touched several times during daily operation. Dampen a soft microfiber cloth with 70% ethyl alcohol solution and clean the treated surface for one minute. If desired, the device can be covered with a plastic film which should be replaced or cleaned after every usage. Always wear disposable gloves when handling it.
- **Top Stage chambers, adapters and holders:** internal and external surfaces can be cleaned as follows:
 - a. Turn the device off and unplug all connecting cables.
 - b. Dampen a soft microfiber cloth with 70% ethyl alcohol solution and clean the treated surface for one minute.
 - c. Do not pour or spray any liquid directly on the device.
 - d. Gently wipe any glass surfaces. Do not apply strong force to the surface of the glass because it can be damaged.
 - e. Keep acid solvents away from the device. They might cause corrosion and discoloration.
 - f. Do not use a compressed air gun.
- **Controller Box:** external surfaces can be cleaned like reported as follows:
 - a. Turn the device off and unplug all power cables.
 - b. Dampen a soft microfiber cloth with 70% ethyl alcohol solution and clean the treated surface for one minute.
 - c. Do not pour or spray any liquid directly on the device.
 - d. Keep acid solvents away from the device. They might cause corrosion and discoloration.
- **Tubings:** can be cleaned by using 70% ethyl alcohol solution and treating surfaces for one minute. Remember to shut the gas flow off before cleaning them.
- **Humidity Bottle (for HM-ACTIVE or UNO):** could be mostly exposed to algae and fungi formation due to the presence of warm water. It is recommended that users empty the Humidity Bottle once per week, and to clean both the glass and metal parts by using 70% ethyl alcohol solution with a one minute application time. Before refilling the bottle, it is important to flush excess alcohol by using distilled water.
- **Heated Glass Plates:** Dampen a soft microfiber cloth with 70% ethyl alcohol solution and clean the treated surface for one minute. Void getting liquid seep into the small gap between glass and metal frame. Gently wipe the glass, do not apply strong force to the surface of the glass because it can be damaged. Keep acid solvents away from the chamber. They might cause corrosion and discoloration.
- **Heated Metal Plates:** Damp a soft microfiber cloth with 70% ethyl alcohol solution and clean the treated surface for one minute.
- **Transparent, black and lasersafe enclosures:** external and internal enclosure walls can be cleaned with a 70% ethyl alcohol solution with a one minute application. You can also use disinfectant agents based on a quaternary ammonium compound, which is effective on microbial contamination if applied for 15 minutes.
- **HM-VF:** Unplug and remove the permeable tube. Clean the permeable tube by using only distilled water by forcing its flow inside with a syringe. This permeable tube is sensitive to any alcohol and organic solvents, so only distilled water is allowed. Wash the rest of the humidifier with alcohol solution and remove its excess with a sterile cloth in order to avoid any contact with the permeable tube.

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- **Objective heaters:** Remove the objective heater from the microscope objective. Clean the flexible heating band with a soft microfiber cloth dampened with a 70% ethyl alcohol solution. Treat the surface for one minute. Clean the microscope objective following the cleaning instructions provided by the microscope supplier. At this point you can put the objective heater back onto the microscope objective.
- **Water-jacket top stage chambers:** To clean the external and internal surfaces of the chamber, follow the recommendations provided for “Top Stage chambers, adapters and holders”. Furthermore, as water jacket top stage chambers feature internal water-tight channels, remove the cooling/heating tubing from the chamber. Clean the internal water-tight channels by using 70% ethyl alcohol solution by forcing its flow inside with a syringe. Next, flush the excess alcohol using distilled water in the same manner.
- **H101 thermostat/chiller:** Empty the H101 thermostat/chiller once per week by using the purging valve on the rear panel. Clean the external and internal surfaces of the water reservoir with a soft microfiber cloth dampened with a 70% ethyl alcohol solution. Treat the surface for one minute. For cooling/heating tubing, please refer to the “Tubings” recommendations.

For more detailed information, please refer to the Cleaning paragraph of the User Manual.

[1] European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control. Interim guidance for environmental cleaning in nonhealthcare facilities exposed to SARS-CoV-2. ECDC: Stockholm; 2020

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