

# Sample preparation solutions

Technical resources document

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# SPE cartridge selection

Thermo Scientific™ SPE products have been developed to meet the requirements of today's sample preparation challenges. Thermo Scientific SPE cartridges and 96-well plates are offered in a range of phases and bed weights, ideal for use in application areas such as: Pharmaceutical, Biochemical, Environmental, and Food and Beverage.

The following flow chart is designed to help in selecting the correct phase for the compound of interest.

## SPE Phase Selection

Sample Matrix	Solubility of Sample	Polarity of Sample	Separation Mode	Recommended HyperSep Sorbent(s)
Aqueous	Water Soluble	Non-Polar	Reversed Phase	SOLA HRP, C18, C8, Phenyl, Retain PEP
		Moderately Polar	Reversed Phase	SOLA HRP, C18, C8, Retain PEP
		Polar	Reversed Phase	SOLA HRP, Hypercarb Retain PEP
		Cationic	Ion Exchange	SCX
		Anionic	Ion Exchange	SAX Aminopropyl
		Non-Polar & Cationic	Reversed Phase and Ion Exchange	SOLA SCX/WCX, Verify CX Retain CX
		Non-Polar & Anionic	Reversed Phase and Ion Exchange	SOLA SAX/WAX, Verify AX Retain AX
Aqueous	Organic Soluble	Non-Polar	Reversed Phase	SOLA HRP, C18, C8, Phenyl, Retain PEP
Organic	Organic Soluble	Polar	Normal Phase	Silica, Aminopropyl Cyano, Diol
		Moderately Polar	Normal Phase	Silica, Florisil, Aminopropyl Cyano, Diol
		Cationic	Ion Exchange	SCX
		Anionic	Ion Exchange	SAX Aminopropyl
		Non-Polar & Cationic	Reversed Phase and Ion Exchange	Verify CX
		Non-Polar & Anionic	Reversed Phase and Ion Exchange	Verify AX

## SPE phase selection by manufacturer

Thermo Scientific™ HyperSep™ and SOLA™ products	Alternative to
HyperSep Retain PEP SOLA HRP	Oasis HLB (Waters) Strata-X (Phenomenex) Bond Elut Plexa (Agilent) Easy (Macherey Nagel) ISOLUTE™ ENV+ (Biotage) SampliQ OPT StyreScreen DVB (UCT) H <sub>2</sub> O-philic DVB (JT Baker)
HyperSep Retain CX SOLA SCX	Oasis MCX (Waters) Strata-X-C (Phenomenex) Bond Elut™ Plexa PCX (Agilent) StyreScreen DBX (UCT) H <sub>2</sub> O-philic SC-DVB (JT Baker)
HyperSep Retain AX SOLA SAX	Oasis MAX (Waters) Bond Elut Plexa PAX (Agilent) StyreScreen QAX (UCT) H <sub>2</sub> O-philic SA-DVB (JT Baker)
SOLA WCX	Oasis WCX (Waters) Strata-X-CW (Phenomenex)
SOLA WCX	Oasis WAX (Waters) Strata-X-AW (Phenomenex)
HyperSep Hypercarb	SupelClean™ ENVI-Carb™ Bond Elut Carbon
HyperSep C18	CLEAN-UP™ C18-U Supelclean ENVI-18 / LC-18 BAKERBOND SPE™ Polar Plus™ ISOLUTE C18 CHROMABOND™ C18 Bond Elut C18 Strata C18-U Sep-Pak C18
HyperSep C8	CLEAN-UP C8 Supelclean ENVI-8 / LC-8 BAKERBOND SPE Octyl C8 ISOLUTE C8 CHROMABOND C8 Bond Elut C8 Strata C8 Sep-Pak C8
HyperSep Phenyl	CLEAN-UP Phenyl Supelclean LC-Ph BAKERBOND SPE Phenyl ISOLUTE Ph Bond Elut Ph Strata Phenyl (PH)
HyperSep Silica	CLEAN-UP Silica Supelclean LC-Si BAKERBOND SPE Silica Gel ISOLUTE Silica CHROMABOND SiOH Bond Elut Si Strata Si-1 Sep-Pak Si

Thermo Scientific HyperSep product	Alternative to
HyperSep SCX	CLEAN-UP BCX Supelclean LC-SCX BAKERBOND SPE Aromatic Sulfonic Acid ISOLUTE SCX CHROMABOND SA Bond Elut SCX Strata SCX
HyperSep SAX	CLEAN-UP QAX Supelclean LC-SAX BAKERBOND SPE Quaternary amine ISOLUTE SAX CHROMABOND SB Bond Elut SAX Strata SAX
HyperSep Verify CX	CLEAN-UP DAU Discovery DSC-MCAX ISOLUTE HCX CHROMABOND Drug Bond Elut Certify I Strata Screen-C
HyperSep Verify AX	CLEAN-UP THC ISOLUTE HAX Bond Elut Certify II Strata Screen-A
HyperSep Florisil	CLEAN-UP Florisil Supelclean ENVI-Florisil / LC-Florisil BAKERBOND SPE Florisil ISOLUTE Florisil CHROMABOND Florisil Bond Elut Florisil Strata FL-PR Sep-Pak Florisil
HyperSep Aminopropyl	CLEAN-UP Aminopropyl Supelclean LC-NH <sub>2</sub> BAKERBOND SPE Amino ISOLUTE NH <sub>2</sub> CHROMABOND NH <sub>2</sub> Bond Elut NH <sub>2</sub> Strata NH <sub>2</sub> Sep-Pak NH <sub>2</sub>
HyperSep Cyano	Supelclean LC-CN BAKERBOND SPE Cyano CHROMABOND CN Bond Elut Cyano Sep-Pak Cyanopropyl Strata CN
HyperSep Diol	Supelclean LC-Diol BAKERBOND SPE Diol CHROMABOND OH Bond Elut Diol Sep-Pak Diol

# Removing uncertainty by applying the science to SPE

Our comprehensive range of SPE solutions offer unparalleled performance in purity of extract and reproducibility. Having a fundamental effect on the quality, time and analysis cost, SPE is a critical step during the sample analysis procedure.

We are dedicated to supplying the highest quality SPE solutions, in combination with providing our customers with the support and resources to optimize their SPE solutions and maximize their analysis.

## The importance of SPE

Reducing the effects of the matrix on the separation (GC/LC) and detection (UV, MS etc.) is beneficial. The use of SPE as a sample preparation technique can significantly improve analysis aiding robustness and generating reproducible accurate, precise and sensitive analytical methods. This relies on the ability of SPE to reproducibly:

## Maximize detection selectivity

- Reduce ion suppression
- Reduce protein binding
- Reduce matrix interferences by elimination of matrix and particulates
- Compatibility of solvent with analytical technique

## Improve analytical system performance

- Longer column lifetimes
- Less detector maintenance
- Autosampler syringes less likely to block
- Less contamination

## Improve sensitivity by concentrating of the analytes

- Lower limits of detection
- More accurate quantitation
- Improved data processing

Matrix effects are an issue in many areas of analytical chemistry, however, modification of ionization (ion suppression/enhancement) can be a major problem in atmospheric pressure ionization (API) mass spectrometry and, in particular, electrospray based ion sources.



# SPE procedure – six steps for a clean extract

## 1. Sample pre-treatment

It is important to optimize the sample for effective analyte retention. The following should be considered:

- Sample volume/analyte concentration/matrix complexity
- Adjust sample/matrix composition for proper dilution/ionic strength
- Sample pH for optimum retention
- Confirm that analytes are free in solution
- Remove any unwanted particulates via filtration or centrifugation

## 2. Column conditioning

Prepare the sorbent for effective interaction(s) with the compounds of interest.

- Use appropriate solvent for column condition/activation
- Prevent sorbent drying during conditioning

**3. Column pre-equilibration** Equilibrate with weakly eluting solvent to prepare the phase for sample addition.

- Use the same solvent as for sample pre-treatment
- Prevent sorbent drying during column equilibration

## 4. Sample loading

Analytes are retained on the sorbent.

- Apply samples at appropriate flow rate (1 mL/minute typical)

### For Reversed-Phase Interactions

- Neutral compounds are not affected by pH
- For charged compounds, a pH at which the compound is not charged is used. Neutralize the molecule according to the following:
  - For basic compounds, the neutral molecule exists at least 2pH units below the  $pK_a$  of the compound
  - For acidic compounds, the neutral molecule exists at least 2pH units above the  $pK_a$  of the compound.

### For normal-phase interactions

- pH is not normally an issue in normal phase interactions, as the solvents used are typically non-polar organic solvents, rather than water
- There is no need to verify the sample application pH

### For ion-exchange interactions

- pH and  $pK_a$  are important considerations
- Acidic compounds are extracted from a sample solution at least 2pH units above the  $pK_a$  of the analyte
- Basic compounds are extracted from a sample solution 2 or more pH units below the  $pK_a$  of the analyte
- For second (organic) wash, choose the strongest solution where no compound breakthrough occurs
- For elution step, use a solution stronger than where all the compound of interest is eluted
- NB: when choosing these solutions allow some margin for error

## 5. Wash away interferences

Remove impurities bound less strongly than the compounds of interest.

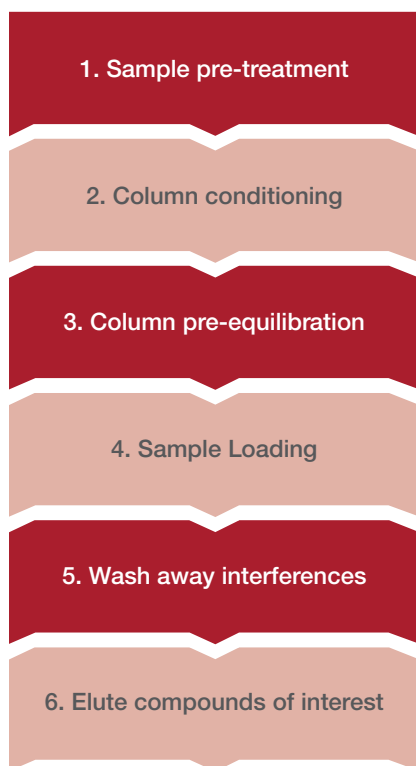
- Select a strong enough wash solvent to remove interferences but weak enough to leave compounds of interest bound
- Selectively rinse away the less strongly bonded interferences
- Wash solvent selected according to phase mechanism/analyte properties

## 6. Elute compounds of interest

Selectively recover the analyte(s) by disrupting the analyte-sorbent interaction.

- Selectively elute analytes of interest using different solvents
- Smaller elution volume produces a more concentrated extract
- Select elution solvent that does not elute strongly retained impurities
- Select elution solvent according to phase mechanism/analyte properties

It is important to optimize the Wash and Elution steps in order to obtain maximum levels of recovery.



# Method development optimization in SPE

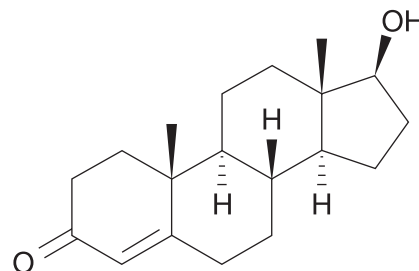
For cleaner extracts, optimization of the SPE process can be important. By optimizing the load, wash, and elution steps of the SPE process, a cleaner sample extract can be obtained.

An example of this is in the development of an SPE method for testosterone.

## Thermo Scientific™ HyperSep™ Retain PEP SPE Cartridge

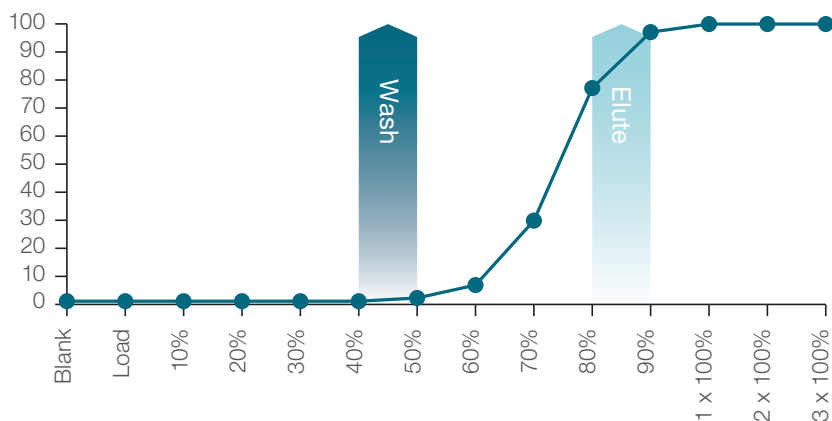
(Cat. no. 60107-201)

1. Condition with 1 mL methanol followed by 1 mL water
2. Load 1 mL of 500 ng/mL sample in water
3. Sequentially wash with increasing strengths of methanol in water, collecting the eluent 0% methanol/100% water to 90% methanol/10% water, increasing methanol content by 10% each time
4. Elution with multiple volumes of methanol



LogP = 3.6  $P_{K_a}$  = 2.99

### Elution profile of testosterone



By following this procedure the optimum wash and elution steps can be determined. In subsequent analyses a single wash stage would be used at 50% methanol followed by a single elution step at 90% methanol. This ensures simplicity of the process, optimum recovery and cleanliness of extract.

An alternative would be to use a HyperSep Retain AX SPE cartridge with the added benefit of Phospholipid removal.

For more information on how to optimize your SPE methodology and specific applications visit [thermofisher.com/spe](https://thermofisher.com/spe)

# Syringes and filters

## Titan3 and Target2 Syringe Filters

Sample preparation with Thermo Scientific™ Titan3™ and Thermo Scientific™ Target2™ syringe filters help provide consistent and reliable experimental results. Both these products provide high quality filtration solutions for a range of samples and applications. The premium Titan3 range provides even higher levels of confidence due to the robust design characteristics (burst pressures of 120psi for the 30mm range) cleaner extracts due to the inclusion of a pre-filter (most 30mm products) and ease of membrane selection via the color coded ring.

### Membrane selection guide

Choose a filter or membrane based on:

1. Chemical compatibility of the membrane and housing with your sample matrix
2. Size and amount of particulates in the sample
3. Potential interactions (binding) between the membrane and sample components
4. Special considerations such as requirement for pre-filter or inorganic ion certification

### Housings

- Titan3 and Target2 filter housings are manufactured from solvent-resistant, low-extractable polypropylene resins specifically selected for wide compatibility with common HPLC sample matrices
- Solutions at temperatures up to 100°C can be filtered using Target2 and Titan3 syringe filters
- Syringe filters can be sterilized by autoclave at 125°C for 15 minutes
- The inlet connection is an enhanced female Luer Lock™ fitting designed for extra security when attached to a Luer Lock syringe
- The outlet fitting is a standard size male Luer-slip fitting for ease of filtrate collection
- Target2 polypropylene syringe filter housings meet the requirements of 21 CFR 177.1520



This table offers general guidelines for membrane characteristics and compatible applications.

Membrane type	Membrane characteristics	Applications
Cellulose acetate	Low protein binding, ideal for aqueous-based samples; high protein recovery from filtrate; lower protein binding compared to PVDF	Tissue culture media filtration, sensitive biological samples
Glass MicroFiber	Larger porosity; able to remove large particulates without clogging	Dissolution testing, general filtration
Nylon	Most frequently selected membrane; broad compatibility with aqueous and organic; naturally hydrophilic membrane; extremely low in extractables; excellent flowrate with most sample matrices; not compatible with strong acids or bases	General laboratory filtration; filtration for most samples; HPLC samples NOTE: Nylon binds protein, do not use when high protein recovery is desired
Polyethersulfone (PES)	High flowrates with good throughput volume; low protein binding; compatible with high temperature liquids; mechanically strong membrane low in inorganic extractable ions	PES is certified for ion chromatography; tissue culture filtration; filtration of proteins and nucleic acids
Polypropylene	Hydrophobic membrane has wide chemical compatibility with organic solvents; low nonspecific protein binding	Filtration of biological samples; filtration of aggressive organic solutions
PTFE	Hydrophobic membrane is resistant to nearly all solvents, acids, and bases; membrane is mechanically strong and will withstand exposure to high temperature liquids; low in extractables; PTFE blocks water vapor; can be used to filter aqueous solutions after prewetting with an alcohol. The hydrophilic PTFE option provides the same application and performance characteristic, but does not require prewetting of the membrane when filtering aqueous samples	Filtration of aggressive organic, highly basic or hot solutions, ideal for transducer protectors
PVDF	Hydrophilic membrane with good solvent resistance; low UV absorbing extractables and low nonspecific binding	General biological filtration; filtration of samples where high protein recovery is desired
Regenerated cellulose	Hydrophilic membrane with good solvent resistance, extremely low nonspecific binding; compatible with nearly all common HPLC solvents; tolerates aqueous samples in pH range of 3 to 12	Membrane of choice for low nonspecific binding applications; Tissue Culture media filtration and general biological sample filtration



## Syringe filter membrane compatibility chart

Use the information in this table to determine the ability of a specific syringe filter membrane to withstand exposure to a solvent. All concentrations are 100% unless noted.

Legend	
C	= Compatible
LC	= Limited Compatibility (Membrane may swell and shrink)
IC	= Incompatible (Not Recommended)
ND	= No Compatibility Data Currently Available
PTFE	= Polytetrafluoroethylene
PVDF	= Polyvinylidene Fluoride
PES	= Polyethersulfone
CA	= Cellulose Acetate
RC	= Regenerated Cellulose
PP	= Polypropylene
GMF	= Glass MicroFiber

	Chemicals	NY	PTFE	PVDF	RC	PES	GMF	PP	CA
Acids	Acetic, Glacial	LC	C	C	C	C	C	C	IC
	Acetic, 25%	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
	Hydrochloric, Concentrated	IC	C	C	IC	C	C	C	IC
	Hydrochloric, 25%	IC	C	C	IC	C	C	C	IC
	Sulfuric, Concentrated	IC	C	IC	IC	IC	C	C	IC
	Sulfuric, 25%	IC	C	C	LC	C	C	C	IC
	Nitric, Concentrated	IC	C	C	IC	IC	LC	C	IC
	Nitric, 25%	IC	C	C	IC	C	LC	C	IC
	Phosphoric, 25%	IC	C	ND	LC	ND	ND	C	C
	Formic, 25%	IC	C	ND	C	ND	C	C	LC
	Trichloroacetic, 10%	IC	C	ND	C	ND	ND	C	C
Alcohols	Methanol, 98%	C	C	qC	C	C	C	C	C
	Ethanol, 98%	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
	Ethanol, 70%	LC	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
	Isopropanol	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
	n-Propanol	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
	Amyl Alcohol (Butanol)	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
	Benzyl Alcohol	C	C	C	C	ND	IC	C	LC
	Ethylene Glycol	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
	Propylene Glycol	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	LC
	Glycerol	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
Amines and Amides	Dimethyl Formamide	LC	C	IC	LC	IC	C	C	IC
	Diethylacetamide	C	C	ND	C	ND	C	ND	IC
	Triethanolamine	C	C	ND	C	ND	ND	ND	C
	Aniline	ND	C	ND	C	ND	ND	ND	IC
	Pyridine	C	C	IC	C	IC	C	IC	IC
	Acetonitrile	C	C	C	C	LC	C	C	IC

	Chemicals	NY	PTFE	PVDF	RC	PES	GMF	PP	CA
<b>Esters</b>	Ethyl Acetate/Methyl Acetate	C	C	C	C	IC	C	LC	IC
	Amyl Acetate/Butyl Acetate	C	C	IC	C	IC	C	LC	LC
	Propyl Acetate	C	C	IC	C	IC	ND	LC	LC
	Propylene Glycol Acetate	ND	C	ND	C	IC	ND	C	IC
	2-Ethoxyethyl Acetate	ND	C	ND	C	IC	ND	ND	LC
	Methyl Cellusolve	ND	C	ND	C	IC	C	C	IC
	Benzyl Benzoate	C	C	ND	C	IC	ND	ND	C
	Isopropyl Myristate	C	C	ND	C	IC	ND	ND	C
	Tricresyl Phosphate	ND	C	ND	C	IC	ND	ND	C
<b>Halogenated Hydrocarbons</b>	Methylene Chloride	LC	C	C	C	IC	C	LC	IC
	Chloroform	C	C	C	C	IC	C	LC	IC
	Trichloroethylene	C	C	C	C	IC	C	C	C
	Chlorobenzene	C	C	C	C	LC	C	C	C
	Freon	C	C	C	C	LC	C	C	C
	Carbon Tetrachloride	C	C	C	C	IC	C	LC	LC
<b>Hydrocarbons</b>	Hexane/Xylene	C	C	C	C	IC	C	IC	C
	Toluene/Benzene	C	C	C	C	IC	C	IC	C
	Kerosene/Gasoline	C	C	C	C	LC	ND	LC	C
	Tetralin/Decalin	ND	C	C	C	ND	ND	ND	C
<b>Ketones</b>	Acetone	C	C	IC	C	IC	C	C	IC
	Cyclohexanone	C	C	IC	C	IC	C	C	IC
	Methyl Ethyl Ketone	C	C	LC	C	IC	C	LC	LC
	Isopropylacetone	C	C	IC	C	IC	C	ND	C
	Methyl Isobutyl Ketone	ND	C	LC	C	IC	C	LC	ND
<b>Organic Oxides</b>	Ethyl Ether	C	C	C	C	C	ND	LC	C
	Dioxane	C	C	LC	C	IC	C	C	IC
	Tetrahydrofuran	C	C	LC	C	IC	C	C	IC
	Triethanolamine	C	C	ND	C	ND	ND	ND	C
	Dimethylsulfoxide (DMSO)	C	C	IC	C	IC	C	C	IC
	Isopropyl Ether	ND	C	C	C	C	ND	C	C
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	Phenol, Aqueous Solution, 10%	ND	C	LC	IC	IC	C	C	IC
	Formaldehyde Aqueous Solution, 30%	C	C	C	LC	C	C	C	C
	Hydrogen Peroxide, 30%	C	C	ND	C	ND	ND	ND	C
	Silicone Oil/Mineral Oil	ND	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
	Ammonium Hydroxide, 25%	C	C	LC	LC	C	C	C	C
	Sodium Hydroxide, 3N	C	C	C	LC	C	IC	C	IC





Expect reproducible results with sample prep, columns and vials



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