Agilent Parts and Supplies

GC and GC/MS Maintenance Schedule

Item	Typical Schedule	Actions/Comments
Gas Management		
Gas purifiers (carrier gas and detector gas)	Every 6 to 12 months	Replacement schedule is based on capacity and grade of gas. In general, replace non-indicating traps every 6 to 12 months or when indicating traps start to change color.
Internal split vent trap	Every 6 months*	Replace to prevent material backing up into EPC control and to avoid costly repair.
External split vent trap	Every 6 months*	Replace to prevent sample analytes from escaping into the laboratory environment.
Flow meter calibration	Every 1 to 2 years	Re-calibrate electronic flow meters – follow recommended schedule for the unit (shown on the calibration certificate).
Sample Introduction and Inlets		
Syringes and/or syringe needles	Every 3 months*	Replace syringe if dirt is noticeable in the syringe, if it cannot be cleaned, if the plunger doesn't slide easily, or if clogged. Replace needle if septa wear is abnormal or the needle becomes clogged.
Inlet liner	Weekly*	Check often. Replace when dirt is visible in the liner or if chromatography is degraded.
Liner O-rings	Monthly*	Replace with every liner change.
Inlet septum	Daily*	Check often. Replace when signs of deterioration are visible (gaping holes, fragments in inlet liner, poor chromatography, low column pressure, etc.)
Inlet hardware	Every 6 months Every year	Check for leaks and clean. Check parts and replace when parts are worn, scratched, or broken.
Inlet gold or stainless steel seal	Monthly*	For highest level of reproducibility, change inlet seal with every liner change, but minimally replace monthly or when scratched, corroded, or if there is build-up of non-volatile sample components.

*Schedule is an approximation of average usage requirements. Frequency may vary widely based upon application and sample type.

(Continued)



GC and GC/MS Maintenance Schedule

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Columns		
Front-end maintenance	Weekly-monthly*	Remove 1/2 to 1 m from the front of the column when experiencing chromatographic problems (peak tailing, decreased sensitivity, retention time changes, etc.). Replace inlet liner and septum, and clean inlet as necessary. Guard column may be useful for increasing column lifetime.
Solvent rinse	As needed	Perform when chromatography degradation is due to column contamination. Only for bonded and cross-linked phases.
Replacement	As needed	Replace when trimming and/or solvent rinsing no longer restore chromatographic performance.
Ferrules	As needed	Replace when changing columns and inlet/detector parts.
Detectors		
FID/NPD jets and collector	As needed	Clean when deposits are present. Replace when they become scratched, bent, or damaged, or when having difficulty lighting FID or keeping flame lit.
NPD bead	As needed	Replace when signal drifts or there is a dramatic change in sensitivity.
FID	Every 6 months	Measure hydrogen, air, and makeup gas flows.
TCD	As needed	Thermally clean by "baking out" when a wandering baseline, increased noise, or a change in response is present. Replace when thermal cleaning does not resolve the problem.
ECD	Every 6 months or as needed	Wipe test. Thermally clean by "baking out" when baseline is noisy, or the output value is abnormally high. Replace when thermal cleaning does not resolve the problem.
FPD	Every 6 months or as needed	Measure hydrogen, air, and makeup gas flows. Clean/replace FPD windows and seals when detector sensitivity is reduced.
NCD and SCD	Every 3 months*	Change pump oil, oil coalescing filter and chemical trap.
Mass Selective Detectors		
Tune MSD	As needed	Keep plenty of PFTBA (p/n 05971-60571) on hand.
Check the calibration vial	Every 6 months	Vial can be refilled without venting the system.
Replace the foreline pump oil	Every 6 months	Check the fluid weekly. Change when the fluid becomes discolored or every 6 months.
Replace the diffusion pump fluid	Every year or as needed	Check the fluid weekly. Too little fluid will cause the pump to run at a higher temperature, resulting in degradation and loss of high vacuum. Change when the fluid is discolored or contains particulates.
Clean the ion source	As needed	Clean when performance deteriorates to remove contamination and to restore the electrostatic properties of the ion lens system. Replace scratched parts to maintain optimal performance.

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