

Maintaining the KinExA Instrument

To ensure instruments are running properly, Sapidyne recommends a preventive maintenance visit once a year. During the visit, a Sapidyne representative will check the function of the instrument, calibrate components, and replace the plumbing.

Between annual visits, KinExA® users can take additional steps to keep instruments clean. If the instruments are left for long periods of time with 1X PBS or other buffers in the lines, salt crystals or contamination may occur. The following schedule should help hinder contamination or the formation of salt crystals when using KinExA instruments:

Daily

- Use **0.02% sodium azide** in running buffer, samples, labels, and particle reservoirs. While this will not completely eliminate the possibility of contamination, customers who use sodium azide regularly have far fewer problems with contamination.

Monthly

- Change the buffer and sterilize the buffer containers monthly or more frequently when contamination is suspected.
- Clean the **injection syringe barrel** at least once monthly. The injection syringe may get contaminated, clogged, or coated with label. The injection syringe should also be rinsed if a kinetics injection experiment is going to be performed. Rinsing with buffer alone may leave residual label in the injection syringe. For instructions about cleaning the injection syringe barrel, see How to Guide 211 (**HG211**).

Every 3 months

- Perform an **Extreme Clean** at least once every three months or when contamination is suspected. An extreme clean uses both bleach and a surfactant solution, KinExA Cleaning Solution (Part #: 2T7010), to decontaminate and clean the instrument with a series of rinses. For the full extreme clean procedure, see **HG202**. For Autosampler extreme cleaning procedures, see **HG201**.

Idle Instruments

- Idle for ~1 month: periodically run rinses to avoid crystal formation in the tubes.
- Idle for ~3 months: remove the salt solution and fill the tubes with a dH₂O and 0.02% Sodium azide solution.
- Idle for more than 3 months: rinse with dH₂O solution, then remove all liquid from lines.