



Intermountain Forensics

SOP #	MNT-206
Revision #	01

Forensic DNA Technical Leader Approval

Issue Date

5/21/20

Benchmark Thermal Cycler Maintenance

1. Purpose

This document explains the maintenance procedures for the Benchmark PCR instrument

2. Summary

Periodic cleaning is required for the Benchmark PCR instrument. This document shows step-by-step procedures for instrument maintenance.

3. Procedure

Preparation

Before cleaning the instrument:

1. Power off the instrument by disconnecting the power.
2. Allow the instrument to cool until the heated cover and sample block(s) reach room temperature.

Clean the Sample Wells

3. Clean and decontaminate the sample wells once a month or as needed.

To clean the sample wells:

4. Follow the steps in "Preparation".
5. Open the heated cover.
6. Remove the sample tray from the sample block(s) and set it aside.
7. Use a swab soaked in ethanol to clean the sample wells thoroughly. Make certain that the ethanol has evaporated completely before reloading a sample tray.

Decontaminate the sample wells

8. If the sample wells become contaminated with any biological agents, clean the wells thoroughly with a swab soaked in 20% bleach.

Clean the Heated Cover

9. Clean and decontaminate the heated cover once a month or as needed.

To clean the heated cover:

10. Follow the steps in "Preparation".
11. Open the heated cover.
12. Soak a swab or piece of clean cloth with ethanol and gently wipe the heated platen.
13. Remove any remaining isopropanol from the cover.

Decontaminate the Heated Cover

14. If the heated cover become contaminated with amplified DNA, raise the heated cover to the cleaning position and wipe the cover with a cloth or swab soaked in 20% bleach, then wipe the cover with a damp cloth.

4. References

N/A



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5. *Definitions*

N/A