

Medical Materials & Technologies

Handling & Storage Tips for 3M™ Diagnostic Microfluidic Hydrophilic Films

Converting Suggestions:

Due to the nature of the coating on the film, certain precautions should be taken during the converting and handling of the film.

Scratches and contamination will compromise the hydrophilic property of the film.

1. Clean and wipe down rollers and nips to eliminate the potential for film contamination. Residual debris and coatings used in previous processing runs may compromise the hydrophilic property.
2. Limit the number of rollers in direct contact with the film. Eliminate all unnecessary contact.
3. Any rollers the film contacts should be wrapped to prevent the roller from scratching the film. 3M recommends wrapping all rollers with a soft, non-adhering wrap to prevent scratches.
4. Check any tape wrapped around the rollers as the tape may scratch the film.
5. If a nip pull roll is used, the rubber or silicone roller may contaminate the surface due to pressure contact on the film. The film should be inspected after going through the nip roll to determine if there are marks, contamination or a reduction of hydrophilic property.
6. All rollers, whether driven or idle, must be moving at the same speed to minimize the potential for scratching.
7. Avoid contacting the surface with any adhesives unless the adhesive is being used as a permanent attachment.

Handling Suggestions:

Finger oils, scratches, and accidental liquid splashes onto the film are common culprits in the reduction of the hydrophilic property.

1. Remove the first few outer wraps before testing or processing to ensure that the hydrophilic property has not been compromised.
2. Wear cotton or cloth gloves during the evaluation, production, and packaging of this film to eliminate the potential for finger smudges and scratching.
3. It is best to hold the film at the edges and if possible, minimize the amount of handling.

Stacked sheets of the hydrophilic film may block against one another after an extended period of time. It is recommended that a slip-sheet be placed between film layers. Also, wrap the stacked sheets in a moisture impervious barrier to minimize the potential for reducing the hydrophilic property.

Storage:

As the product is hydrophilic, storage conditions are critical. Reduction/loss of the hydrophilic property is minimized if the product remains wrapped in the moisture impervious barrier with the desiccant provided with original packaging. When not in use, keep product wrapped in moisture impervious barrier and avoid excessive heat and humidity.

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Effective July 2018