



PRESS RELEASE

Laboratory Heating Blocks - Best Practice Guide

Asynt announce an updated 2020 version of its popular **best practice guide** for **safely** using **laboratory heating blocks**.

Used by laboratory scientists worldwide, when utilised properly, heating blocks provide a safe, convenient and productive tool for heating round bottomed flasks, tubes and vials. Typically used in combination with a standard hotplate stirrer - heating blocks are proven to provide superior heat-conducting properties compared to oil baths. They also pose a far lower fire risk and their use makes the clean-up of glassware far easier as there is no residual oil contamination on the outside of the reaction vessel. Today it is widely acknowledged that heating blocks can not only accelerate your chemical reactions - but also ensure that you can work in a safer, cleaner, healthier working environment.

Dr Ffion McKeague - Technology Manager at Asynt said "Our original best practice guide was written in conjunction with internationally respected experts from the Department of Chemistry, University of St Andrews and Advanced Chemical Safety Inc. The 2020 Laboratory Heating Blocks - Best Practice Guide has been updated with new improved illustrations and technical data to lead you through best practices for glassware inspection, setting up your reaction, heating your reaction and the post-reaction cool down phase".

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To download a copy of the Laboratory Heating Blocks – Best Practice Guide (2020) please visit <https://www.asynt.com/product/best-practice-guide/> or contact Asynt on +44-1638-781709 / enquiries@asynt.com.

Asynt is a leading supplier of affordable products, consumables and services for chemists in industry and academia. With staff of trained chemists - Asynt can draw upon this in-depth applications knowledge to provide a high level of customer support for its DrySyn Heating Blocks, Controlled Lab Reactors, Synthesis Tools, Evaporators, Circulators, Temperature Control Systems, Vacuum Pumps and Lab Safety Equipment.

FEBRUARY 2020

asyntpr104.doc


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Illustrative images:



A Safety Guide for Using Laboratory Heating Blocks


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Heating blocks provide a safe, convenient and productive alternative to heating mantles and oil baths for heating round-bottomed flasks, tubes and vials. Used in combination with a standard hotplate stirrer, heating blocks such as the Asynt DrySyn® range have proved themselves with their ability to outperform the heat-conducting properties of oil baths. They pose a far lower fire risk and their use makes the clean-up of glassware much easier as there is no residual oil contamination on the outside of the flasks. In addition to accelerating your chemical reactions, heating blocks ensure a safer, cleaner, healthier working environment.

However, solid aluminium heating blocks can reach temperatures of over 250 °C and therefore care needs to be taken not to touch the units, or inserts, at any time unless you are certain that they are cool. The nature of these heating blocks is such that the equipment will retain the heat for some time and larger heating blocks that have been used at high temperatures could stay hot enough to cause a burn even after over half an hour has elapsed. Ideally users should use a thermocouple probe in the heating block to monitor temperature during the cooling phase. In the absence of a thermocouple probe it is recommended that any block that has been heated should be left for a minimum of one hour.

In the case of Asynt DrySyn® Heating Blocks, you could also use an additional DrySyn® Safety Heat Sticker which shows when the heating block has cooled sufficiently to touch without causing a hazard.

This document has been written to provide laboratory staff with an **IN BEST PRACTICE GUIDE** for the safe use of heating block systems.



All DrySyn® bases are supplied with adjustable feet to offer compatibility with any hotplate stirrer.



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