

Cleaning Fiber Optic Connectors – Overview

Testing Fiber Optic Connection

Fiber optic connections are tested in several ways. A bulkhead connector can be inspected with a magnifying scope to detect dirt and oils along the connector surface and surrounding area. A second test method that can be used for connectors and splices involves testing the fiber's performance. Measuring the signal strength input and comparing it to the signal strength output will determine the fibers performance. If the signal strength loss is below the minimum expected level, the connection is considered a good connection.

How to Clean Fiber Optic Connectors

Fiber optic bulkhead connections occasionally get dirty and periodically require cleaning. Dirt and oils can cause signal attenuation or disruption. Cleaning is accomplished as follows:

- 1) Bulkhead connections are snapped apart.
- 2) The Male portion may be polished on a lint free Econowipe™ 6704. Stack two or three wipes on a hard surface, such as a workbench. Dry wiping is the preferred cleaning method. Start by wiping the tip of the connector in one direction in a straight line. The connector face must be kept flat against the Econowipe. A figure eight motion can also be used.
- 3) If this does not clean satisfactorily the connector may be cleaned with a cleaning solution. Wet the Econowipe™ 6704 squares with Electro-Wash® PX Fiber Optic Cleaner, or use the Optic Prep presaturated wipe. Where flammability is a concern, use Electro-Wash® CZ Fiber Optic Cleaner.
- 4) When the male portion cannot be removed from the bulkhead the "pocket" may be cleaned most efficiently with Ultrajet® CO₂. Just spray short blasts of ultra pure CO₂ gas into the connector and inspect with the magnifying scope. Or use Ultrajet® All-Way if less cleaning force is required.
- 5) For a heavier amount of contamination use the fiber optic swab dry. If this does not work moisten the swab with Electro-Wash® PX and insert the swab into the connector. Then press against the optical connector, twist and remove.
- 6) The bulkhead housing when separated from both connections may be cleaned with the swab by inserting the swab into the housing and pulled all the way through.

Availability

Ultrajet® CO₂ Duster

ES270-1 2.4 oz System
ES275 2.4 oz Refill

Ultrajet® All-Way Duster

ES1620 8 oz. Aerosol

Electro-Wash® CZ Fiber Optic Cleaner

ES7100 12 oz aerosol
ES7101 1 Gallon

Electro-Wash® PX Fiber Optic Cleaner

ES810 5 oz aerosol
ES1210 12.5 oz aerosol
ES110 1 gallon

2.5mm Fiber Optic Swab

25184 5 swabs per bag
25183 100 swabs per bag

Econowipes™ Lint Free Wipes

6704 1200 per bag ; 4"x4"
(10.2cm x 10.2 cm)

Chempad™ Presaturated Wipes

CP400 50 4"x3" wipers

Optic Prep™ Presaturated Wipes

CP410 50 4"x8.25" pads

TECHNICAL & APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

ITW Chemtronics® provides a technical hotline to answer your technical and application related questions. The toll free number is:

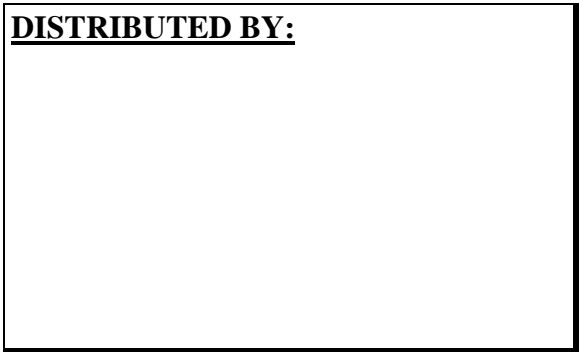
1-800-TECH-401.



This information is believed to be accurate. It is intended for professional end users having the skills to evaluate and use the data properly. ITW CHEMTRONICS® does not guarantee the accuracy of the data and assumes no liability in connection with damages incurred while using it.

MANUFACTURED BY:
CHEMTRONICS INC.
8125 COBB CENTER DRIVE
KENNESAW, GA 30152
1-800-645-5244
1-770-424-4888
www.chemtronics.com
REV-B-1004

DISTRIBUTED BY:



TECHNICAL HOT LINE 1-800-TECH-401