

Valve Care Guidelines: Locking Quick Disconnect (QD)



PLEASE NOTE: Avidity recommends that removable valves are sanitized/sterilized separately from the rack and placed in a valve tray. This will ensure that the valves are properly sanitized/sterilized and reduces the risk of the valves and quick disconnect sockets being damaged. See Avidity Science guide OP-000041 for full details of this process or contact an Avidity Science representative for more information.

IMPORTANT TIPS TO AVOID WHILE CLEANING REMOVABLE VALVES:



OVEREXPOSURE

Overexposure to sanitization agents. Avoid free chlorine levels higher than 20 ppm and no longer than 45 mins of exposure.



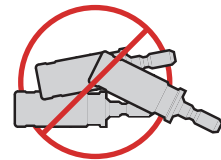
EXCESS HEAT

Do not exceed a sterilization temperature of 149° C (300 ° F).



IMPACT DAMAGE

Impact damage from being poured out of a collection container in a holding vessel. The impact from falling can force in the valve stem into the body of the valve, damaging the diaphragm.



DO NOT LAYER

Do not layer or pile the valves on top of each other. Impact of layering can result in the valve stem being damaged and/or pushed through the diaphragm, which will render the valve inoperable.

1) Sanitizing Removable Valves

Removable drinking valves can be sanitized in a tunnel washer or ultrasonic cleaner. Follow the appropriate instructions based on the cleaning equipment used by the facility.

Using Valve Washing Tray or Wire Basket

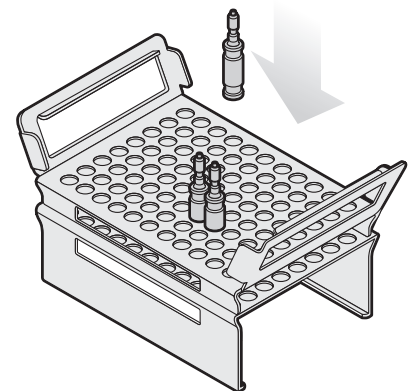
Using the tray ensures proper handling and a thorough cleaning of the valves from the top and bottom of the tray. Also, using the tray reduces the risk of the valves being damaged.

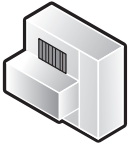
Follow this procedure to properly clean removable valves using the Valve Washing Tray:

1. Place the valves stem-side down in the slots of the Valve Washing Tray.
2. Place the tray in the tunnel/cabinet cage washer.
3. Store the sanitized valves in the trays until the valves are to be sterilized or placed into service.

If the Valve Washing Tray is not used, an alternate method is to place the valves in a single layer in a wire basket before placing them in the washer.

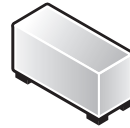
⚠ EQUIPMENT DAMAGE: Do not layer or pile the valves on top of each other. The impact of layering can result in the valve stem being damaged and/or pushed through the diaphragm, which will render the valve inoperable.





Tunnel Washer

There are specific detergents recommended by tunnel washer manufacturers that will safely and effectively clean an Avidity drinking valve. Follow the tunnel washer manufacturer's standard operating procedures for the appropriate detergent or chemical to use.



Ultrasonic Cleaner

1. Make sure that all equipment and the water supply used remains clean throughout the cleaning process.
2. Place the valves in a single layer inside the cleaning basket. Do not stack the valves.
3. Fill the ultrasonic cleaner with clean water.
4. De-gas and start the ultrasonic cleaner according to the manufacturer's instructions.
5. Place the basket into the ultrasonic cleaner and run the unit. During this period only the outside of the valve is cleaned.
6. Remove the basket from the ultrasonic cleaner and rinse the valves completely with clean water.

2) Sterilization and Autoclaving

Do not use a vacuum cycle deeper than -15 in. Hg when autoclaving drinking valves to prevent damaging of shields, o-rings and diaphragms. After the valves are sanitized, place the valves in the autoclave the same way they were placed in the cage washer.

The following is a list of APPROVED and NOT APPROVED cold sterilants:



Cold Sterilants Approved by Avidity Science

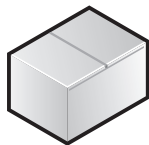
- Free chlorine solution less than 20 ppm
- 1% Sodium Hydroxide Solution
- 70% Ethanol
- Advanced Hydrogen Peroxide
- Cavicide
- Caviwipes
- Labsan 256 CPQ
- Labsan 710R
- Mikro-Quat
- Quatricide
- Quatricide PV
- Quatricide TB (may leave whitish-yellow deposits on valves and may remove labels on other products)
- Sani-Cloth Plus
- Sor-Klenz
- Sterilex
- Virkon 5



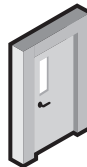
Cold Sterilants NOT Approved by Avidity Science

- Free chlorine solution greater than 20 ppm
- Clidox S

3) Storing Clean, Sterilized Valves



In an appropriate container



Environmentally controlled room



Temperature above freezing 0°C (32°F)

Please see full disclaimers and recommendations in our *Sanitizing, Sterilizing and Storage of Rack Manifolds, Drinking Valves and Recoil Hose* operational guide – OP-000041 or contact an Avidity Science representative for more information.