

Steam Indicator Strip

Quality Control Strips for Antigen Retrieval in a Pressure Steam Chamber
904-614-012626



Available Product Formats	
Catalog Number	Description
614D	250 Strips

Intended Use:

General Laboratory Reagent

The Steam Indicator Strips are intended for professional laboratory use as antigen retrieval steam indicator strips for quality control. Compatible with Decloaking Chamber Pro, Plus, NxGen (DC2002, DC2008 or DC NxGen) and the Antigen Retrieval Chamber (ARC).

Background Summary:

Heat-induced epitope retrieval methods (HIER) are used to pretreat tissues for optimum antibody-antigen reaction. Many different kinds of heat retrieval methods are available including microwaves, water baths, steamers and pressure cookers. These methods were developed to standardize immunohistochemistry for formalin-fixed paraffin embedded tissues. Having Quality Control (QC procedures) for these methods is important to ensure consistent retrieval.

Biocare's Steam Indicator Strips are for antigen retrieval in a pressure steam chamber (Decloaking Chamber or Antigen Retrieval Chamber (ARC)) for protocols 110°C or above. The Steam Indicator Strip provides a visual QC check to ensure that the pressure cooker has reached the optimum temperature and pressure.

Materials and Methods:

Products Provided:

Kit Catalog No.	Component Description	Quantity x Volume
614D	Steam Indicator Strips	250 Strips

* Refer to the Biocare Medical website located at <http://biocare.net> for information regarding catalog numbers and ordering.

Known Applications:

Quality control for antigen retrieval in a pressure steam chamber (Decloaking Chamber or Antigen Retrieval Chamber (ARC)) to check for optimum temperature and pressure.

Storage and Stability:

Store at 10°C to 38°C and 10-70% relative humidity (RH).

Instructions for Use:

The Steam Indicator Strips is for general laboratory use. When using them in combination with other products, refer to the related products instructions for use for recommended conditions for use.

When using this product with an instrument, consult the specific instrument operator manual and instructions for use for operating parameters.

1. Place a Tissue-Tek™ staining dish, Coplin jar, or metal slide canister filled with the appropriate Biocare antigen retrieval solution into the Decloaking Chamber.
2. Place one Steam Indicator Strip on top of the container (per run). Do not use lids or submerge the strip.
3. Run the Decloaking Chamber per the applicable user manual and antigen retrieval solution datasheet.

4. After the cycle, confirm the indicator box is uniform dark grey to black. If it remains blue, the chamber may not have reached the correct temperature/pressure.
5. Date the Steam Indicator Strip and retain it for QC/CAP inspection records.

Technical Notes:

1. Use an antigen retrieval solution appropriate for the assay, specimen type, and antibody requirements.
2. Ensure the container (staining dish, Coplin jar, or slide canister) is stable and positioned securely to prevent tipping or solution loss during the cycle.
3. Do not overload the chamber or stack containers, as this may affect heat/pressure uniformity and overall performance.
4. Use one Steam Indicator Strip per run and place it on top of the container. Do not submerge the strip in solution and do not place lids on staining dishes.
5. Steam Indicator Strips are single-use indicators intended for process verification only and do not replace routine preventive maintenance, calibration, or temperature/pressure verification of the instrument.
6. Steam Indicator Strips are designed to change only when 110°C or higher is achieved. Protocols requiring lower temperatures ($\leq 95^{\circ}\text{C}$) will not cause the strip to change to black and should not be used to evaluate those runs.
7. If the indicator box remains blue or appears uneven, document the result, repeat the run using a new strip, and troubleshoot (e.g., confirm correct cycle selection, proper lid seal/gasket condition, adequate water level, and normal chamber performance).
8. Date and retain the indicator strip according to laboratory QC and document retention requirements (e.g., for traceability and inspection readiness).

Limitations:

There are no warranties, expressed or implied, which extend beyond this description. Biocare is not liable for property damage, personal injury, or economic loss caused by this product.

Technical Support:

Contact Biocare's Technical Support at 1-800-542-2002 for questions regarding this product.