

Speed Vac Operating Instructions

The Speed Vac can be used to dry samples in Eppendorf tubes or to apply brief bursts of vacuum to tissues in order to infiltrate them with a solution.

It is located in B316.

Please avoid the only (currently known) way to create a mess with this instrument:

Never turn off the pump against an existing vacuum.

This would cause the pump oil to be sucked out of the pump and into the tubing and vacuum chamber. Result: your samples and the inside of the chamber are splattered with yellow goop.

To turn on:

- 1.) Make sure valve is turned parallel to tubing.
- 2.) Open lid to vacuum chamber, load samples into rotor, close lid, turn on rotor.
- 3.) Turn on pump. (The pump is in the cabinet under the rotor and the switch is on the top-left-back corner of the pump).
- 4.) If you did it right, you shouldn't be able to lift the lid on the chamber (because it gets sucked down by the vacuum).

To turn off:

- 1.) Turn red "bleed" triangle on valve to hose connected to rotor chamber. You should hear a hiss as air rushes into the chamber. The pump is continuing to pull a vacuum against the rear end of the valve.
To repeatedly expose a sample to vacuum (for infiltrations) turn back and forth between this and the parallel position as specified by your protocol.
- 2.) Check to make sure that the lid is now "wriggible". Turn off rotor, open lid, remove samples.
- 3.) **Leave the lid open** as you turn the valve back in parallel to the tubing. The pump is now pulling in outside air without being able to pull a vacuum (because you haven't closed the chamber lid).
- 4.) Turn off the pump.