

Alconox

A Guide to Proper Cleaning Procedures



Introduction

A good cleaning procedure is necessary to save time and to increase the life of glassware, porcelain, and other laboratory equipment. Proper cleanliness assures more accurate results in laboratory experiments and demonstrations.

Materials

Alconox powdered detergent

Brush or cloth

Water

Safety Precautions

Alconox can be irritating to body tissues, especially eyes. Avoid ingestion, inhalation, and body tissue contact. Wear chemical splash goggles, chemical-resistant gloves, and a chemical-resistant apron. Please review current Material Safety Data Sheets for additional safety, handling, and disposal information.

Preparation

1. To prepare a 1% Alconox solution, dissolve 1 g of Alconox powdered detergent in 100 mL of warm water.
2. To prepare a 2% Alconox solution, dissolve 2 g of Alconox powdered detergent in 100 mL of warm water.

Procedure

1. To begin cleaning with Alconox, remove excessive soil by rinsing in tap water before soaking.
2. Use a sink, pan, or jar as a soak vessel. Fill it with a 1% solution of Alconox at room temperature. Submerge materials to be cleaned in the soak solution as soon as possible after use. Soaking keeps residues from drying or caking on your laboratory articles.
3. To clean, remove the article from the soak vessel. Place it in a fresh 1% solution of Alconox at 46–52 °C (warm tap water). Remove soil with a brush or a cloth.
4. Proper rinsing is necessary to assure perfectly clean surfaces. Rinse thoroughly under running tap water. After rinsing the article under tap water, give it a final rinse in distilled or deionized water to minimize water spots.

Disposal

Please consult your current *Flinn Scientific Catalog/Reference Manual* for general guidelines and specific procedures governing the disposal of laboratory waste. All Alconox solutions may be flushed down the drain with excess water.

Tips

- If using a brush, be sure it is in good condition. Worn brushes may scratch surfaces.
- For hard-to-remove soil and grease, scour with Alconox. Sprinkle Alconox powder on a warm, wet sponge or cloth, then rub soiled surfaces until clean.
- To clean vinyl or rubber tubing, simply rinse with cold tap water immediately after use. Then soak in a 1% Alconox solution for about an hour. Follow with a rinse in tap water, and finally rinse with distilled or deionized water.
- To loosen frozen stopcocks, use a 2% solution of Alconox. Immerse the stopcocks in a 2% solution at about 49 °C for a few hours. Use gentle pressure to loosen. For stubborn cases, immerse for a longer period of time.

- Do not use Alconox powered detergent in the dishwasher. If used, it will foam excessively causing soap bubbles to spill out of the dishwasher.

***Alconox* is available from Flinn Scientific, Inc.**

Catalog No.	Description
A0126	Cleaning Compound, Alconox [®] , 4-lb carton
A0127	Cleaning Compound, Alconox [®] , 25-lb carton

Consult the [Flinn Scientific website](#) for current prices.