

# Adsorbents and Carbon Technology for Air Sampling & Thermal Desorption

PEFTEC  
November, 2015

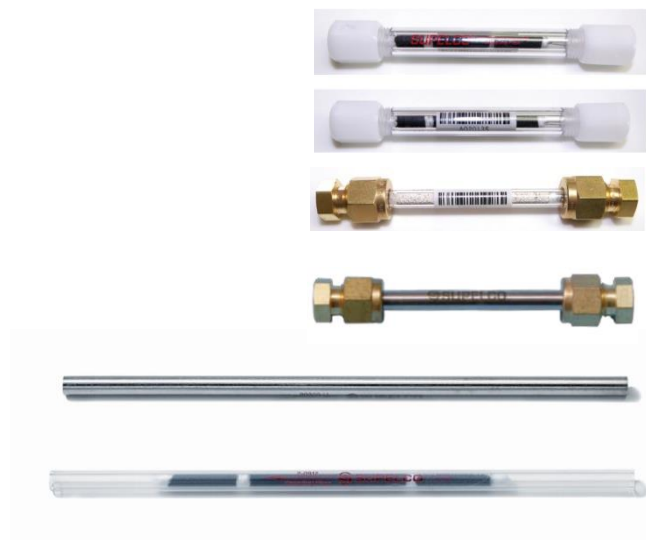
Klaus Buckendahl,  
Jamie Brown



[sigma-aldrich.com/analytical](http://sigma-aldrich.com/analytical)

# Agenda

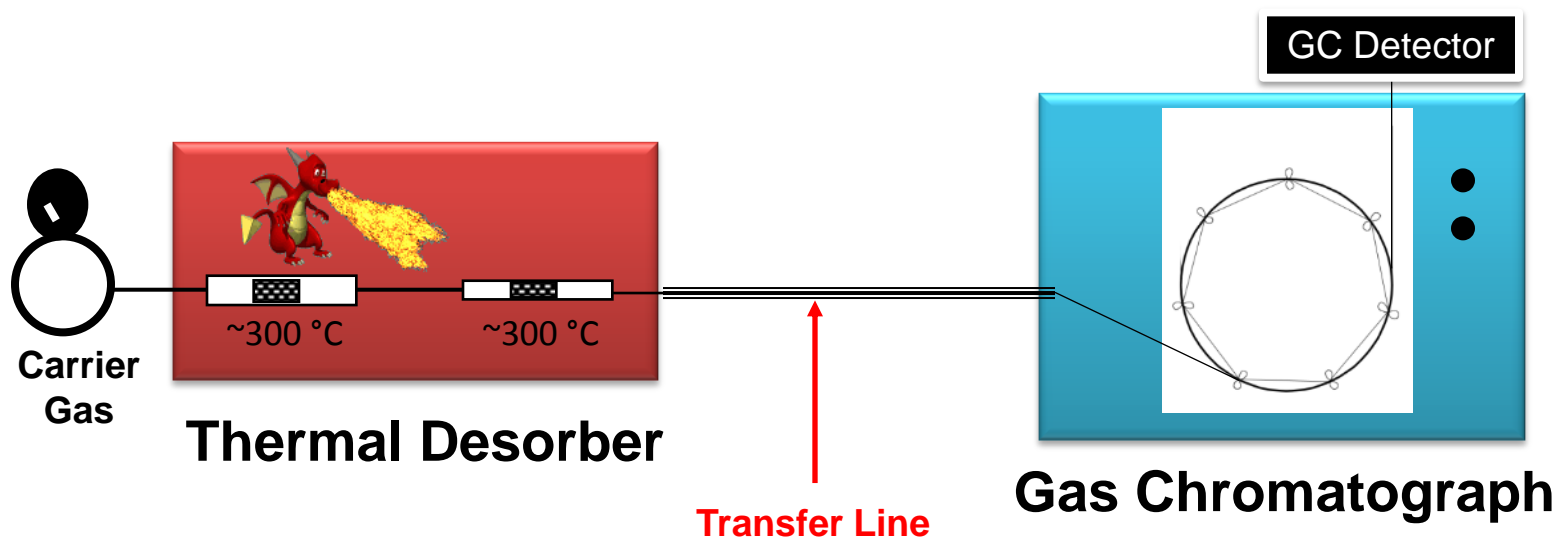
- Introduction
- Type of Adsorbents
- Selection Tool



# What is Thermal Desorption?

A **Sample Preparation** technique for **Air & Gas Analysis and GC**.

- The gas /air sample is collected onto an adsorbent packed glass or stainless steel tube. *The sample is concentrated on the adsorbents.*
- The packed tube is heated (**Thermal**) and the compounds are released into the carrier gas (**Desorption**) transferred onto GC column for Analysis



# Adsorbent Characteristics for Thermal Desorption

- Able to **retain & release** the **compounds** of interest
- Able to withstand **high temperatures** ~ 300°C
- **Low background** levels
- Low metal content
- **Hydrophobic**

## *Desirable*

- Consistent mesh/particle size
- Consistent density
- Low shrinkage
- **Low** amount of **finer**



# Terms Defined

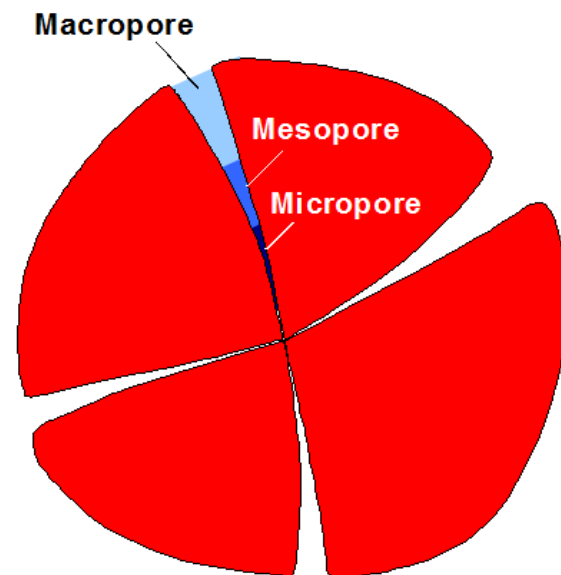
## Surface Area:

- provides a **general idea of the adsorbent strength**, but *it doesn't provide the whole picture.*
- Other characteristics such as **pore size, pore shape, and porosity** can also play a role in the adsorbent's ability to retain and release different compounds.
- **General Rule:**
  - *The higher the surface area value, the stronger the adsorbent.*
  - *For **surface area >800 m<sup>2</sup>/g**, the size and shape of the **pore becomes more important.***

## Terms Defined (cont.)

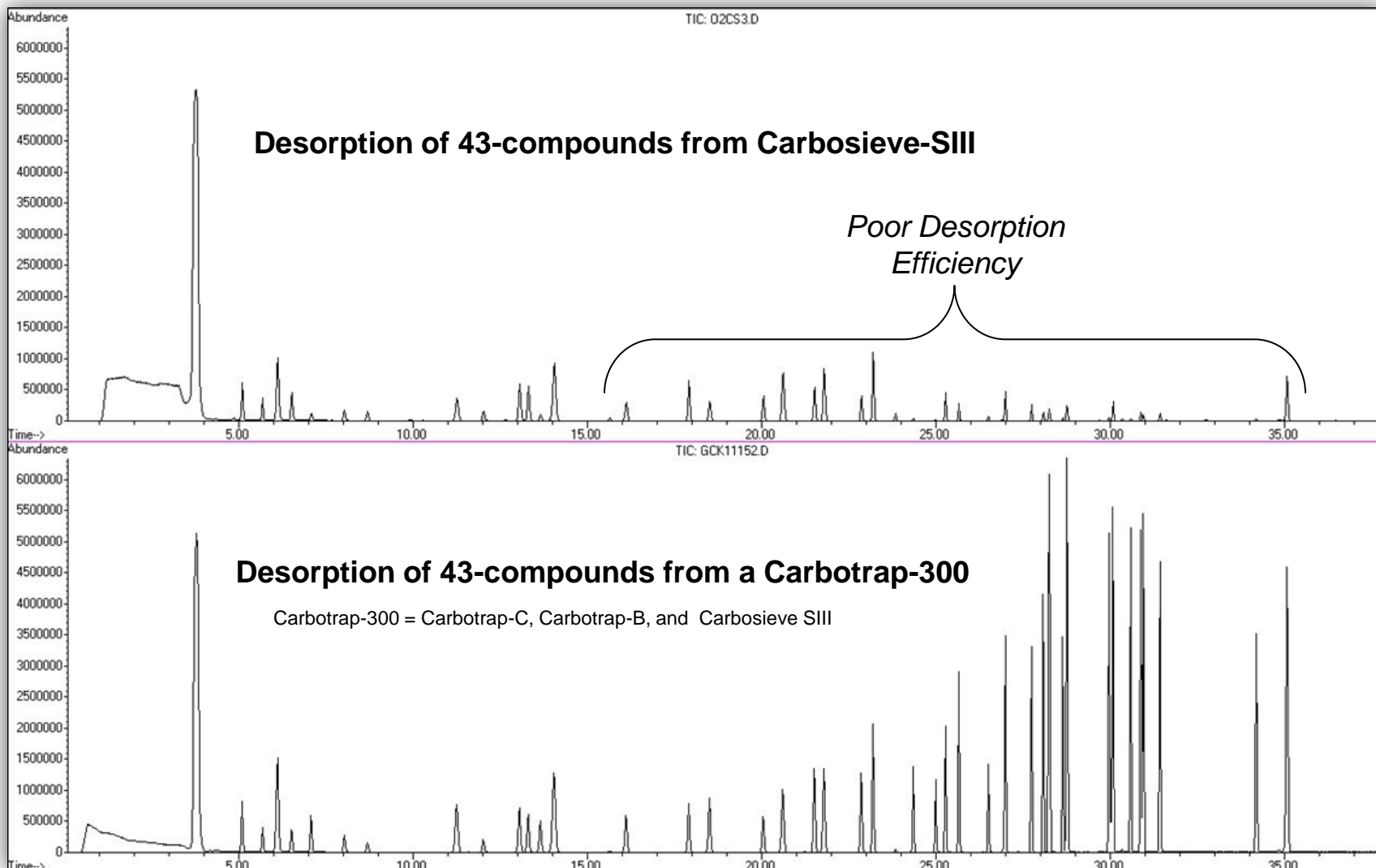
### Pore Size:

- Macropores:  $> 50$  nm diameter
- Mesopores: 2 - 50 nm diameter
- Micropores:  $< 2$  nm diameter



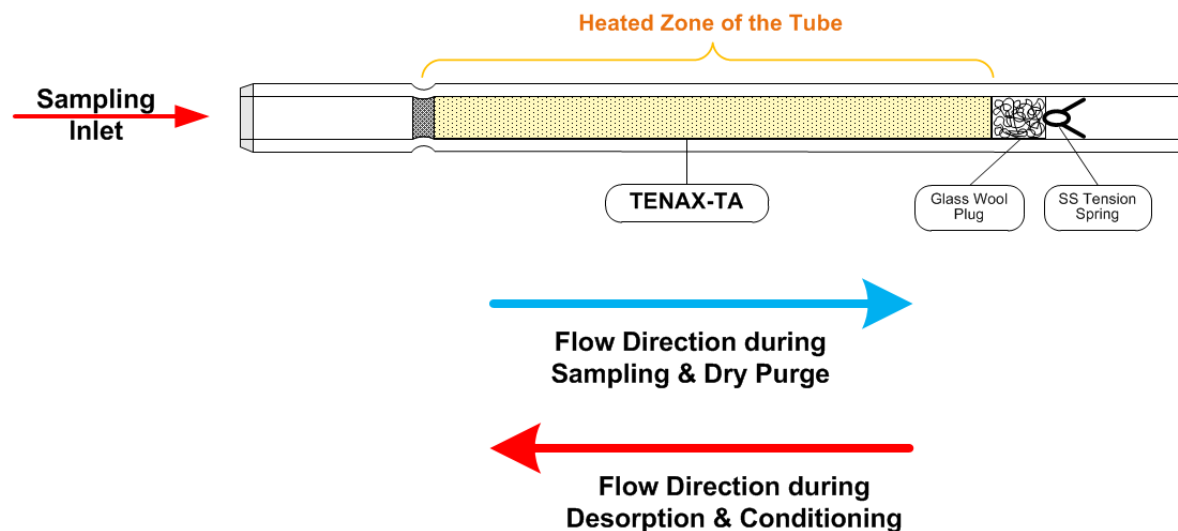
**Molecules cannot access pores smaller than their size**

# Will the strongest adsorbent work for everything?

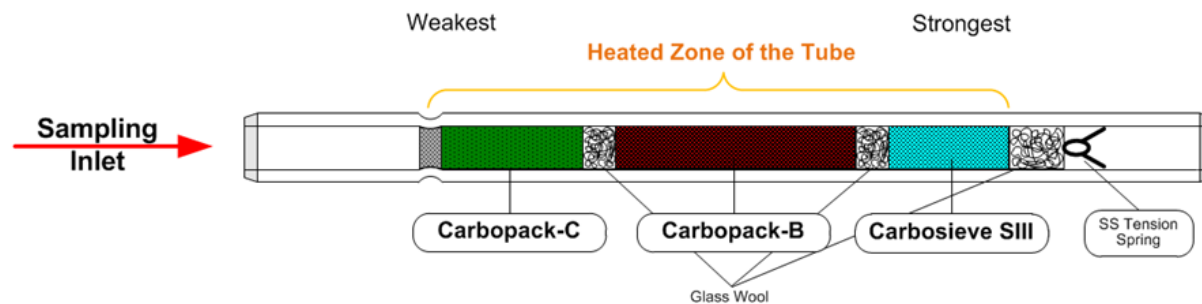


# Thermal Desorption Tube Adsorbent Beds

## Single-Bed Tube (e.g. Tenax® TA)



## Multi-Bed Tube Carbotrap® 300





# Adsorbent Types used in Thermal Desorption

# Typical Adsorbents for Thermal Desorption

- Polymers
  - Tenax<sup>®</sup> TA (2,6-diphenyl-p-phenylene oxide)
- Graphitized Carbon Blacks (GCB)
  - Non porous
  - Names: Carbopack<sup>™</sup>, Carbotrap<sup>™</sup>
  - Various types available
- Carbon Molecular Sieves (CMS)
  - Porous
  - Names: Carboxen<sup>™</sup>, Carbosieve<sup>™</sup>
  - Various types available
- Glass beads
  - Used to retain large molecular weight volatiles

**Key Expertise  
of Sigma-Aldrich / Supelco !!**

Materials used on the NASA missions  
Galileo (Jupiter) & Cassini-Huygens (Saturn-Titan)

# Carbon Adsorbents History in Supelco

>20 year Experience in preparing Carbon Adsorbents

## Carbosieves

- First Family of Carbon molecular sieves (S-I, S-II, S-III)
- Carbosieve S-III one of strongest adsorbents
- Microporous only
- First CMS in air monitoring

## Carboxenes (Introduced 1987)

- Carboxene-1000 highly efficient adsorbent
- Not as strong as S-III but far better kinetics
- Materials on NASA Missions
  - (e.g. Galileo, Cassini/Huygens to Titan)

Adsorbent	BET surface area (m <sup>2</sup> /g)	density (g/mL)	porosity			pore diameter (Å)
			micro-pores (cc/g)	meso-pores (cc/g)	macro-pores (cc/g)	
<b>Graphitized Carbons</b>						
Carbopack X	240	0.41	^	0.62	^	100
Carbopack Z	220	0.18	^	1.73	^	255
Carbopack B	100	0.35	^	^	^	N/A
Carbopack Y	24	0.42	^	^	^	N/A
Carbopack C	10	0.68	^	^	^	N/A
Carbopack F	5	0.64	^	^	^	N/A
<b>Carbon Sieves</b>						
Carboxen - 563	510	0.53	0.24	0.15	0.24	7 - 10
Carboxen - 564	400	0.60	0.24	0.13	0.14	6 - 9
Carboxen - 569	485	0.58	0.20	0.14	0.10	5 - 8
Carboxen - 1000	1200	0.48	0.44	0.16	0.25	10 - 12
Carboxen - 1001	500	0.61	0.22	0.13	0.11	5 - 8
Carboxen - 1002	1100	0.43	0.36	0.28	0.30	10 - 12
Carboxen - 1003	1000	0.46	0.38	0.26	0.28	5 - 8
Carboxen - 1006	715	-----	0.29	0.26	0.23	7 - 10
Carboxen - 1010*	675	0.60	0.35	^	^	6 - 8
Carboxen - 1011	1100	0.48	0.41	0.19	0.24	10 - 12
Carboxen - 1012	1500	0.50	^	0.66	^	19 - 21
Carboxen - 1016	75	0.52	^	0.34	^	^
Carboxen - 1018	700	0.60	0.31	0.04	^	6 - 8
Carboxen - 1021	650	0.64	0.29	0.02	^	5 - 7
Carbosieve S-III	820	0.61	0.35	0.04	^	4 - 11
Carbosieve S-II	1059	-----	0.45	0.01	^	6 - 15
Carbosieve G	1160	-----	0.49	0.02	^	6 - 15
NASA 20/45	61	0.55	^	0.33	^	^
(Carboxen - 1017)						
Supelcarb	1150	0.46	0.47	0.26	0.28	5 - 8

# Porous Polymers

## Tenax®-TA

- The most popular adsorbent used in thermal desorption
- Maximum temperature: 350 °C
- Recommended desorption temp: 300 °C
- Recommended conditioning temp: 320 °C
- Methanol not retained (Good for spiking tubes with liquid calibration standards)

## Typical Characteristics

- Granular - Tan in color
- Surface area: 35 m<sup>2</sup>/g
- Hydrophobic



## Porous Polymers (cont.)

### PoraPak™-N, Chromosorb®-106, HayeSep®-D

- Relatively low maximum temperatures: 225-290 °C
- Recommended desorption temp: 200 °C
- Recommended conditioning temp: 210 °C
- Typically has higher background levels than other adsorbents

### Typical Characteristics

- Spherical - Light Yellow in color
- Surface area: 500 to 800 m<sup>2</sup>/g
- Hydrophobic

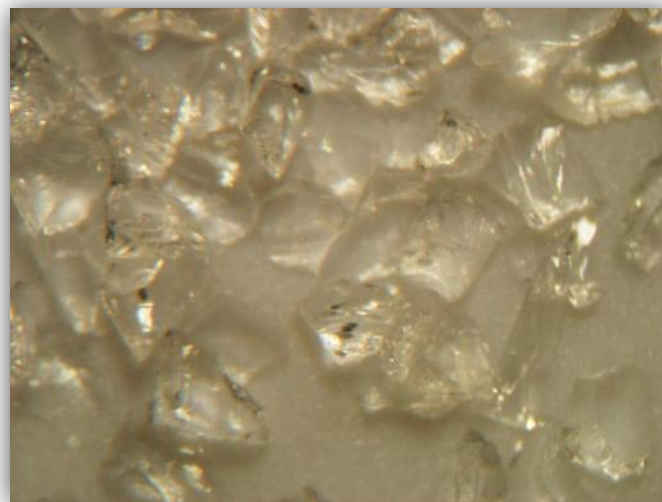


# Other Adsorbents

**Glass Beads** 5 m<sup>2</sup>/g ("good pre-filter")

Rarely used for Thermal Desorption

- Petroleum Charcoal
- Coconut Charcoal
- Silica Gel
- Molecular Sieves (Zeolites)



# Graphitized Carbon Blacks

## Carbotrap<sup>®</sup> and Carbopack<sup>™</sup>

- Maximum temperature: 400 °C
- Recommended desorption temp: 330 °C
- Recommended conditioning temp: 350 °C
- Methanol not retained by most of them

## Typical Characteristics

- Granular - Flat Grey/Black in color
- Surface area: 5 to 240 m<sup>2</sup>/g
- Designed to retain and release mid to large molecular weight compounds
- **Hydrophobic**
- High Purity - Low Background

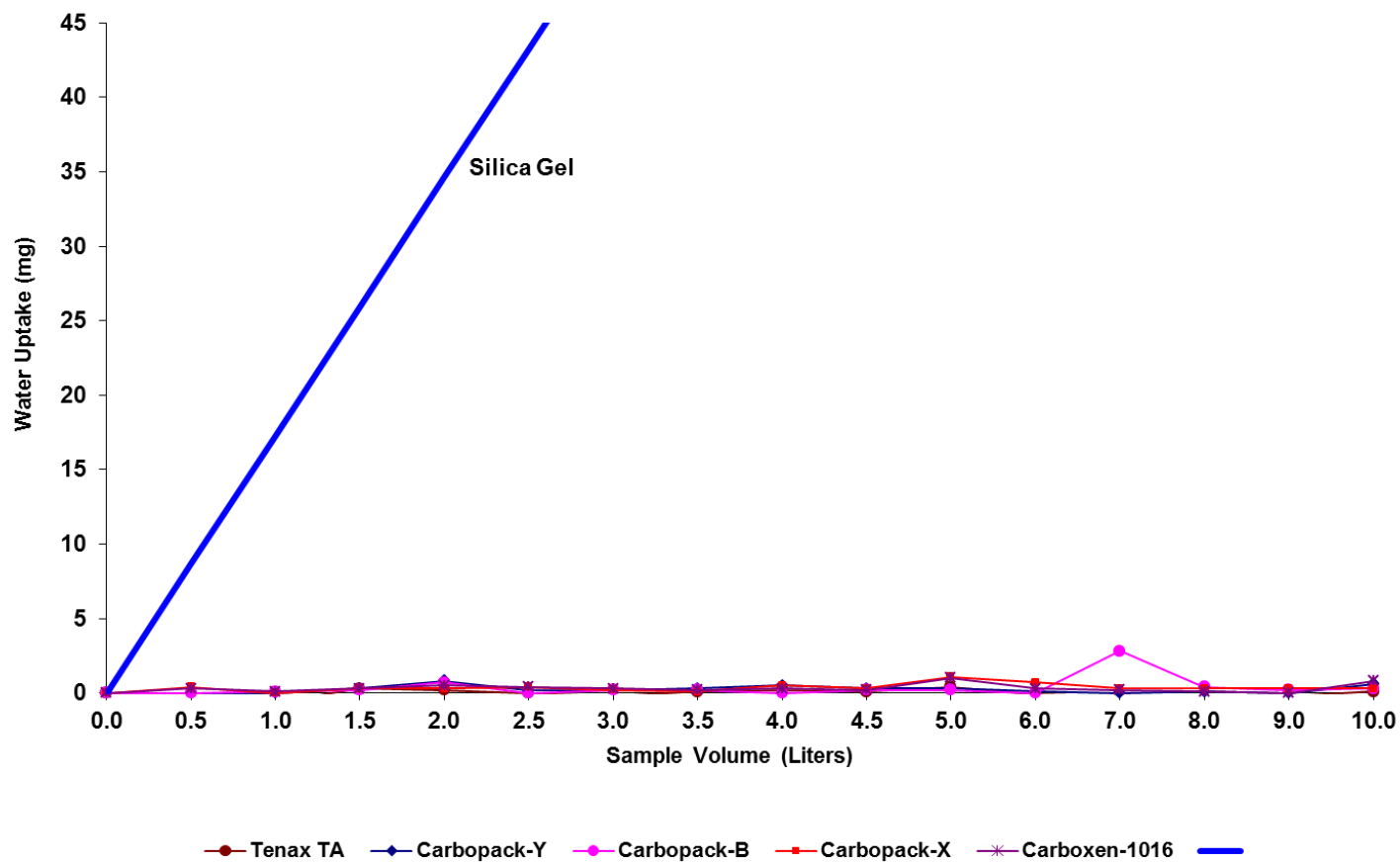
**Carbotrap** = 20/40 mesh

**Carbopack** = 40/60, 60/80, 80/100,  
and 100/120 mesh



# Water vapor retained by Carbopack(s) & Tenax-TA

Cumulative Water Uptake  
Sampling at 75%RH (25°C)





# Adsorptive Strength of Graphitized Carbon Blacks



Carbopack X	240 m <sup>2</sup> /g
Carbopack Z	220 m <sup>2</sup> /g
Carbopack B	100 m <sup>2</sup> /g
Carbopack Y	24 m <sup>2</sup> /g
Carbopack C	10 m <sup>2</sup> /g
Carbopack F	5 m <sup>2</sup> /g

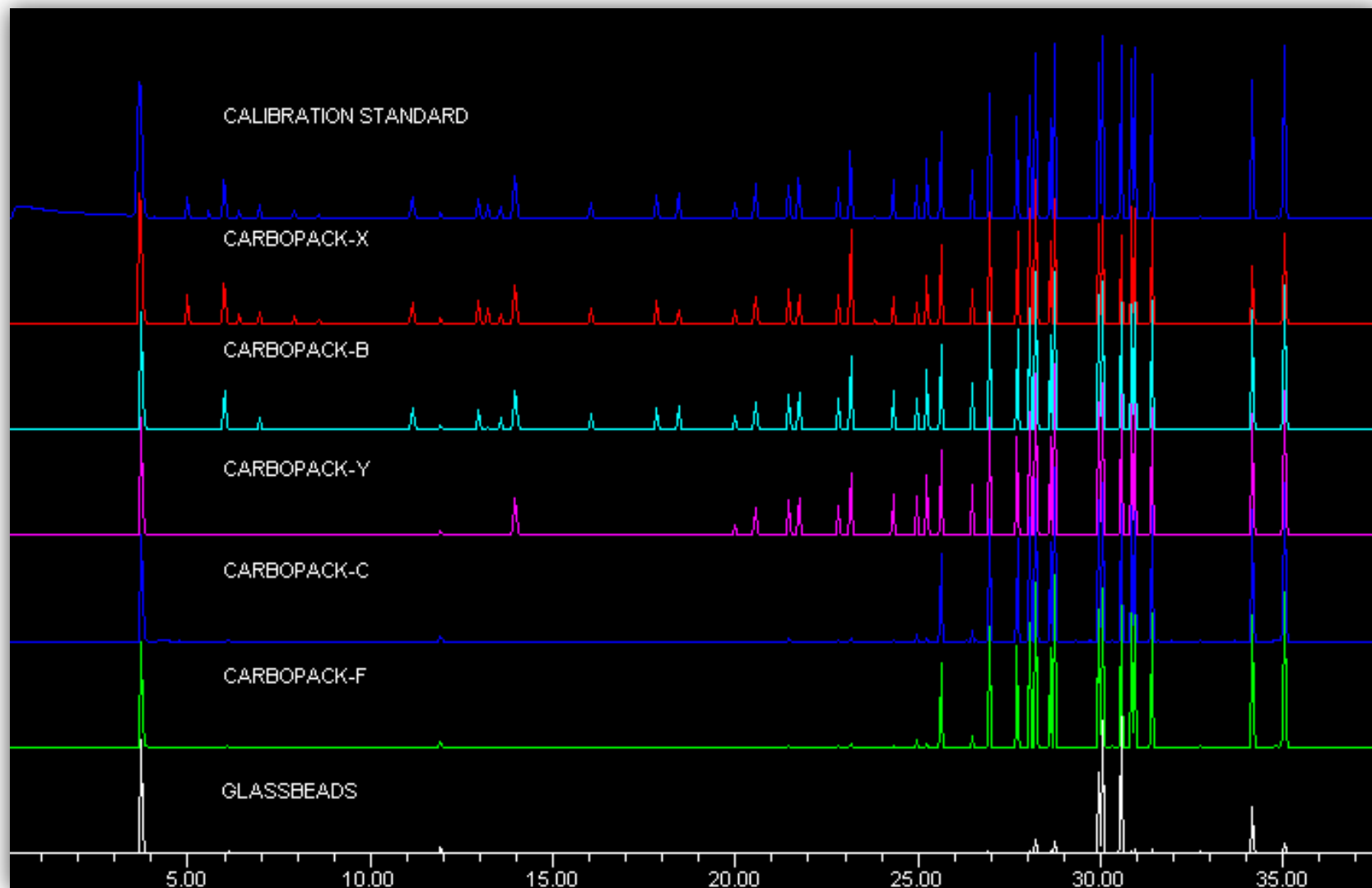
Relative Adsorption  
Strength

Strongest



Weakest

# Graphitized Carbon Blacks



## Fence line Monitoring EPA325B (Draft)

On September 29, 2015, the U.S. EPA issued a final rule - requiring all U.S. **Petroleum Refineries** to conduct passive air **sampling along the perimeter of their properties**. (40 CFR Parts 60 and 63) Coming Method will be EPA325A/B.

EPA Method 325 uses **passive (diffusive) samplers** to collect air samples at specific intervals **along the fence line** of the petroleum refineries property<sup>1</sup>. The target compound is Benzene.

These passive air samplers are comprised of a **inert-coated\* stainless steel thermal desorption tube** packed with a graphitized carbon adsorbent. **Carbopack™X** is listed as **primary adsorbent**.

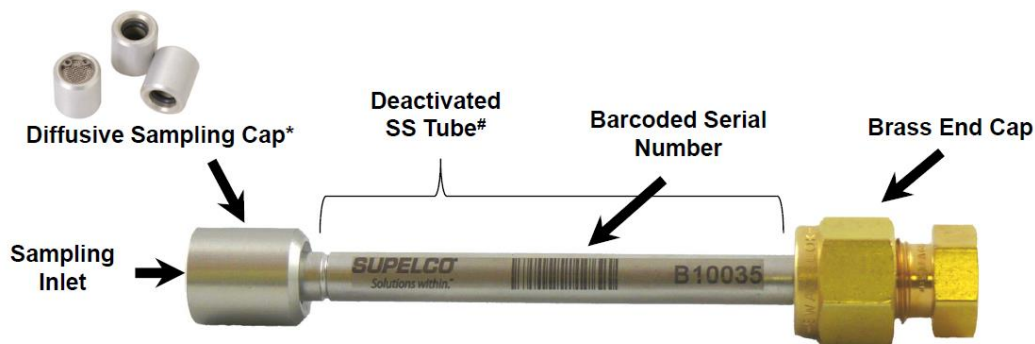
The Carbopack X is also validated by the EPA and listed in the Method.

\*The I.D. of the stainless steel tube are coated with a protective layer (Supelcoat™), which masks any active sites that could be present on the inside of the tube.

# EPA Method 325 (DRAFT) for Fenceline Monitoring (FLM)

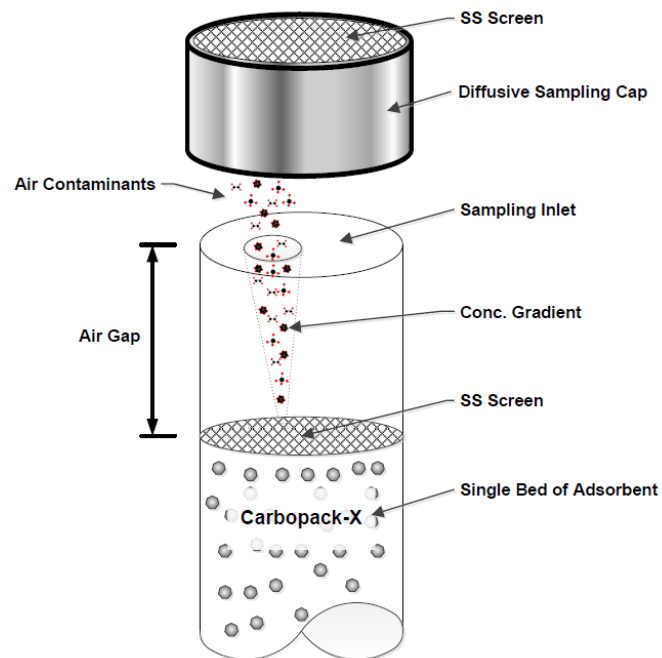
## Using Carbopack X in Specially Treated Thermal Desorption Tube

- Inert TD Tube with diffusion cap
- Carbopack X bed
  - retains wide range of analytes
    - recovery of key analytes, 1,3-butadiene, **benzene**, toluene, remain at 100% when sampling large volumes
  - is hydrophobic
    - **water will not be retained**



Tube Dimensions: 6.35 mm O.D. x 5 mm I.D. x 89 mm Long

Cat# 28686-U Stainless Steel w/SupelCoat Carbopack X (60/80) shown with diffusive sampling cap



Method 325B—Volatile Organic Compounds from Fugitive and Area

Sources:

Sampler Preparation and Analysis

## EPA325B (Draft)

**Table 12.1:**  
Validated Sorbents and Uptake Rates (mL/min) for  
Selected Clean Air Act Compounds

Carbopack X was validated for the broadest compound portfolio due to its broad suitability, not just Benzene (or BTEX).

Compound	Carbopack™ X <sup>a</sup>
1,1-Dichloroethene	0.57±0.14
3-Chloropropene	0.51±0.3
1,1-Dichloroethane	0.57±0.1
1,2-Dichloroethane	0.57±0.08
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	0.51±0.1
Benzene	0.67±0.06
Carbon tetrachloride	0.51±0.06
1,2-Dichloropropane	0.52±0.1
Trichloroethene	0.5±0.05
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	0.49±0.13
Toluene	0.52±0.14
Tetrachloroethene	0.48±0.05
Chlorobenzene	0.51±0.06
Ethylbenzene	0.46±0.07
m,p-Xylene	0.46±0.09
Styrene	0.5±0.14
o-Xylene	0.46±0.12
p-Dichlorobenzene	0.45±0.05

<sup>a</sup> Reference 3, McClenny, J. Environ. Monit. 7:248-256. Based on 24-hour duration.

# More Information

## US EPA Method 325B Compliance Flyer (RNW)

## Passive Fenceline Sampling Solution for Benzene and Other VOCs

[sigma-aldrich.com/flm](http://sigma-aldrich.com/flm)



The flyer is titled "US EPA Method 325B Compliance" and features the SUPELCO logo in the top right corner. It includes a photograph of an industrial refinery at night. The text describes a passive fenceline sampling solution for benzene and other VOCs, highlighting compliance with US EPA Method 325B. It details the benefits of the solution, such as proven quality and performance, and lists features like durable barcodes and low-cost monitoring. A circular diagram in the bottom right corner illustrates the integrated process from research and development to tube treatment.

**US EPA Method 325B Compliance**

Passive Fenceline Sampling Solution for Benzene and Other VOCs

**Compliance with US EPA Method 325B**

The new US federal regulation, 40 CFR Parts 60 and 63 - Petroleum Refinery Sector Risk and Technology Review and New Source Performance Standards, is an update to the previous version. It requires that the perimeter or fenceline of refineries be monitored for 14-day periods using passive sampling sorbent tubes at multiple locations for benzene and other volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

**The Complete Sampling and Analysis Solution**

Our goal is to bring you the science and performance inside the tube and provide the quality on the outside to help you achieve compliance with the ruling. We make the carbon adsorbents and pack the adsorbent tubes in-house with our adsorbent manufacturing. Tube packing and QC are located in suites next to each other, no other supplier has the same capability. If you perform the laboratory analysis, our GC Capillary Columns are manufactured right next door in another suite. Our R&D facilities and experts are also located onsite.

**Proven quality and performance you can trust from the inside out with the Fenceline Monitor (FLM™) Carbopack™ X deactivated stainless steel TD tube.**

Carbopack X delivers trusted sampling performance from the inside while the easy to read tube markings and barcode delivers confidence and traceability on the outside.

**Features and Benefits**

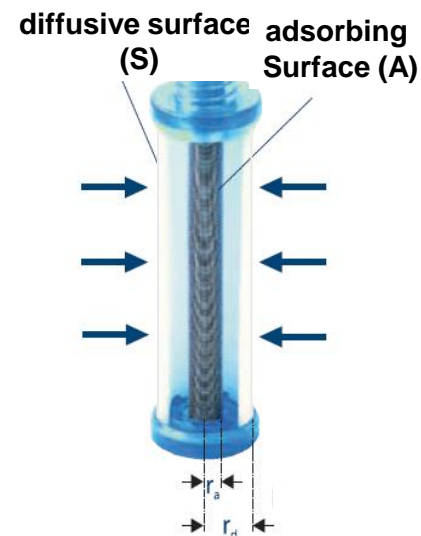
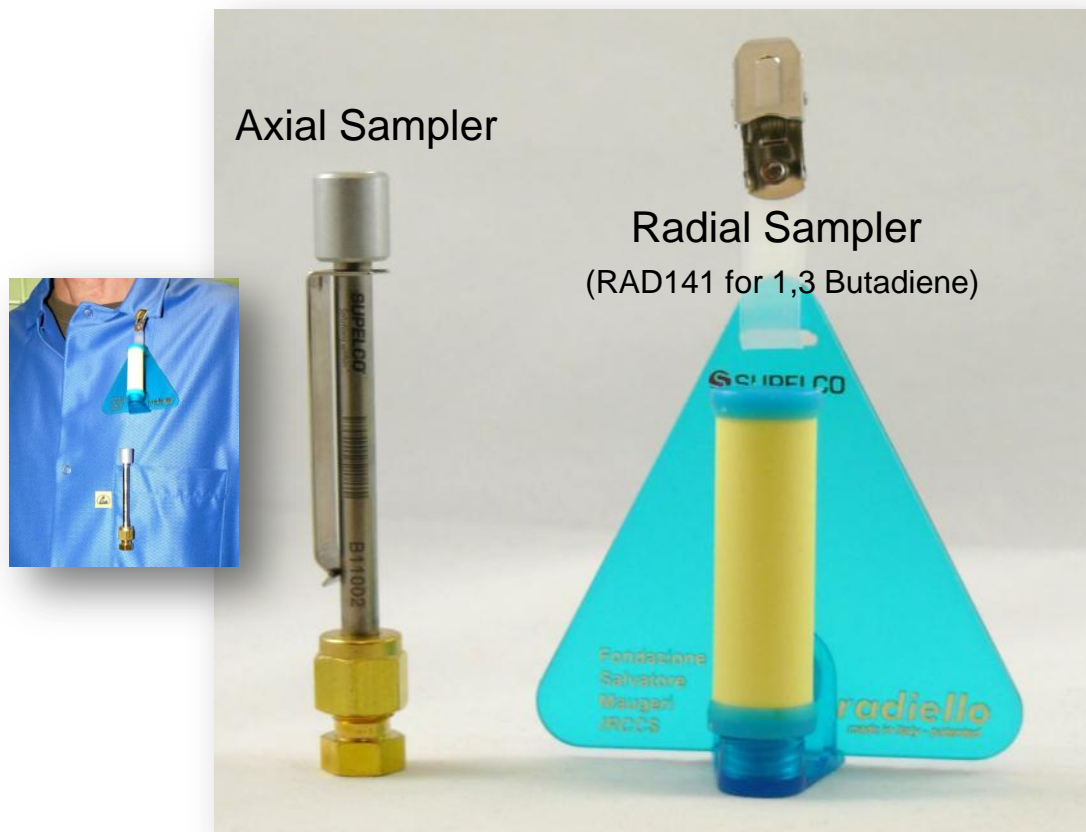
- Only sampling device available with Carbopack X adsorbent
- Only sampling device with sampling rates for Carbopack X validated by the US EPA
- Durable barcode to ensure traceability and minimize litigation risk
- Easy-to-read tube markings
- Certificate of Analysis included in every box
- Low-cost monitoring solution, tubes are reusable up to 100x

**Research and Development**

- OC Testing
- Carbon Adsorbent Manufacturing
- Thermal Desorption Tube Manufacturing
- Supelco™ TD Tube Treatment

**SIGMA-ALDRICH**

# Passive Sampling Options for Thermal Desorption Using Carbopack X

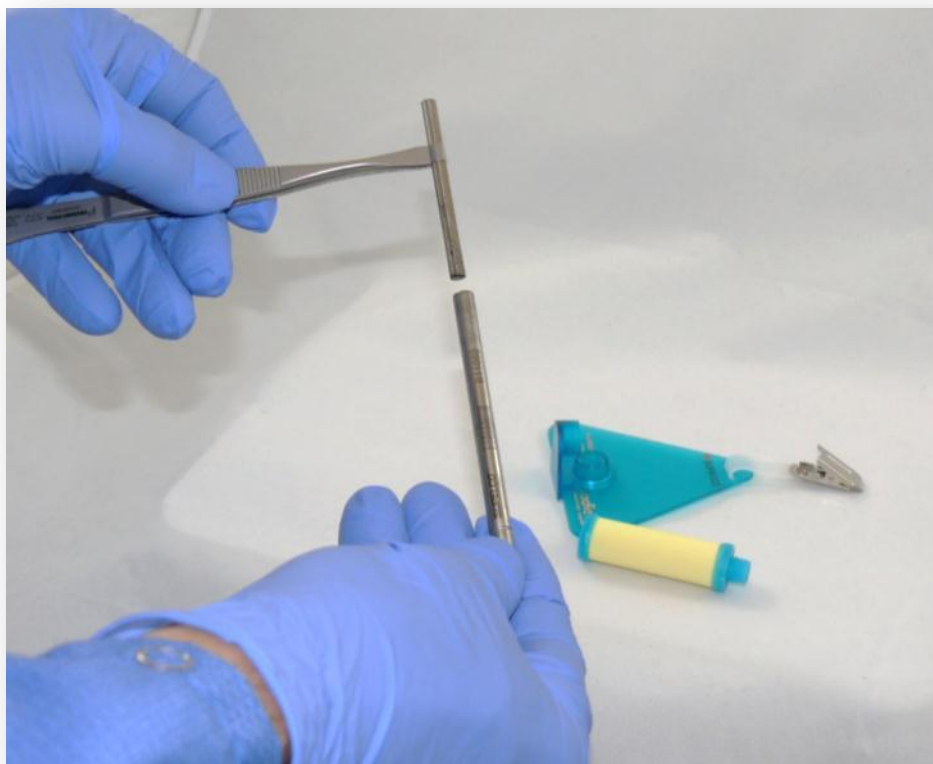


Radial Sampler (radiello®) due to design

- Higher Sampling rates
- Higher sensitivity

# Radiello (RAD141) Sampler for 1,3-Butadiene

After sampling, the RAD141 adsorbent cartridge is placed in an empty stainless steel thermal desorption tube for analysis.





# Carbon Molecular Sieves

## Carbosieve® and Carboxen®

- Maximum temperature: 400 °C
- Recommended desorption temp: 330 °C
- Recommended conditioning temp: 350 °C
- Methanol is retained

## Typical Characteristics

- Spherical (Carbosieve-G is granular)
- Shiny/Dull Black in color
- High surface area 400 to 1500 m<sup>2</sup>/g
- Designed to retain and release small molecular weight compounds



# Adsorptive Strength of Carbon Molecular Sieves



- Carboxen-1016 (*75 m<sup>2</sup>/g*)
- Carbosieve-G* (*1160 m<sup>2</sup>/g*)
- Carboxen-1012* (*1500 m<sup>2</sup>/g*)
- Carboxen-564 (*400 m<sup>2</sup>/g*)
- Carboxen-1000 (*1200 m<sup>2</sup>/g*)
- Carboxen-1001 (*500 m<sup>2</sup>/g*)
- Carboxen-569 (*485 m<sup>2</sup>/g*)
- Carboxen-1003 (*1000 m<sup>2</sup>/g*)
- Carboxen-1018 (*675 m<sup>2</sup>/g*)
- Carbosieve-SIII (*975 m<sup>2</sup>/g*)
- Carboxen-1021 (*1160 m<sup>2</sup>/g*)

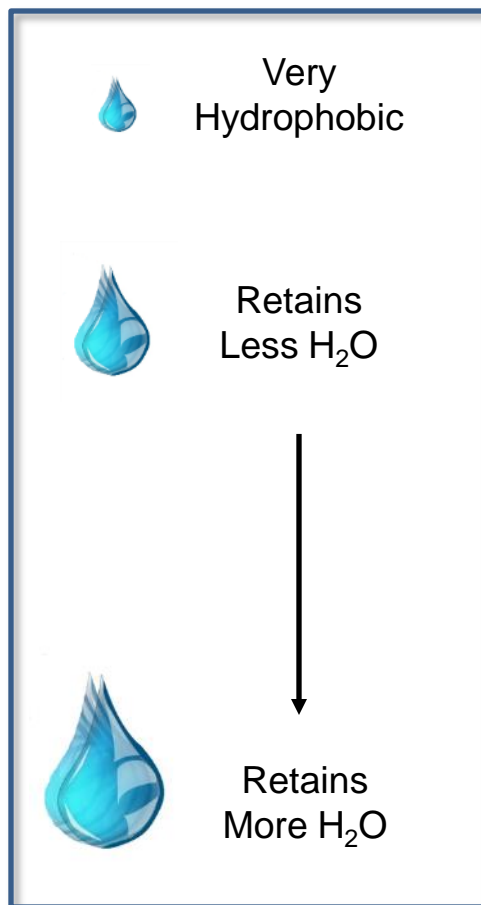
Relative Adsorption  
Strength

**Weakest**



**Strongest**

# Relative Hydrophobicity



Glass Beads

Graphitized Carbon Blacks

Porous Polymers

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Carboxen-1016

Carboxen-569,1001,1003

Carboxen-563

Carboxen-564

Carboxen-1000

Carboxen-1012

Carboxen-1018,1021, Carbosieve G & SIII

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Silica Gel, Mole Sieve 5x, 13x

Carbon  
Molecular Sieves

# Information on Carbon Adsorbents

Wide Range of Properties

How to choose?




Relative Analyte Size <sup>1</sup>	Adsorptive Strength	Recommended Adsorbents (listed highest to lowest surface area)
C20+	Weakest	Carbotrap F, Carbopack F
C12-C20		Carbotrap C, Carbopack C
C9-C14		Carbotrap Y, Carbopack Y
C5-C12		Graphsphere 2027, Graphsphere 2029, Carbotrap B, Carbopack B, Graphsphere 2016, Graphsphere 2017
C3-C9		Carbotrap X, Carbopack X, Carbopack Z
C2-C5	Strongest	Carboxen 1012, Carboxen 1034, Carboxen 1000, Carboxen 1008, Carboxen 1026, Carbosieve G, Carboxen 1005, Carboxen 572, Carbosieve S-II, Carboxen 1003, Carbosieve S-III, Carboxen 1032, Carboxen 1030, Carboxen 1006, Carboxen 1018, Carboxen 1010, Carboxen 1021, Carboxen 563, Carboxen 1001, Carboxen 569, Carboxen 1033, Carboxen 564

Carbon	Approx. Surface Area (m <sup>2</sup> /g)	Approx. Pore Volume (cc/g)			Approx. Pore Diam. (Å)
		Micro	Meso	Macro	
Carbotrap F / Carbopack F <sup>▲</sup>	5	-	-	-	-
Carbotrap C / Carbopack C <sup>▲</sup>	10	-	-	-	-
Carbotrap Y / Carbopack Y <sup>▲</sup>	24	-	-	-	-
Carboxen 1017	61	-	0.33	-	-
Graphitized carbon black	70	0.01	0.23	-	137
Carboxen 1016	75	-	0.34	-	-
Carbotrap B / Carbopack B <sup>▲</sup>	100	-	-	-	-
Mesoporous carbon	203	-	0.49	-	96.3
Purified carbon black	214	0.06	0.28	-	63.9
Carbopack Z <sup>▲</sup>	220	-	1.73	-	255
Carbotrap X / Carbopack X <sup>▲</sup>	240	-	0.62	-	100
Carboxen 564	400	0.24	0.13	0.14	6-9
Carboxen 569	485	0.20	0.14	0.10	5-8
Carboxen 1001	500	0.22	0.13	0.11	5-8
Carboxen 563	510	0.24	0.15	0.24	7-10
Carboxen 1021	600	0.30	-	-	5-8
Carboxen 1010	675	0.35	-	-	6-8
Carboxen 1018	675	0.35	-	-	6-8
Carboxen 1006	715	0.29	0.26	0.23	7-10
Carbosieve S-III	975	0.35	0.04	-	4-11
Carboxen 1003	1000	0.38	0.26	0.28	5-8
Carbosieve S-II	1059	0.45	0.01	-	6-15
Carboxen 572	1100	0.41	0.19	0.24	10-12
Supelcarb	1150	0.47	0.26	0.28	5-8
Carbosieve G	1160	0.49	0.02	-	6-15
Carboxen 1000	1200	0.44	0.16	0.25	10-12
Carboxen 1012	1500	-	0.66	-	19-21

# Adsorbent / Thermal Desorption Literature

## "A Tool for Selecting an Adsorbent for Thermal Desorption"

[www.sigmaaldrich.com/air-monitoring](http://www.sigmaaldrich.com/air-monitoring)



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[www.supelco.com](http://www.supelco.com)

**Technical Report**

### A Tool for Selecting an Adsorbent for Thermal Desorption Applications

*Research conducted by Jamie Brown, R&D, Co-author Bob Shrey, R&D*

There are varieties of adsorbents used in the field of thermal desorption. Often choosing the right adsorbent can be difficult. The goal in selecting the proper adsorbent is to choose one that can retain a specific or group of analytes for a specified sample volume. However, just as important the adsorbent must also be able to release the analyte(s) during the desorption process. This report sheds some light on choosing the right adsorbent by demonstrating the relative differences between those most commonly used. Some of the adsorbents investigated in this research were Tenax TA<sup>®</sup>, Carbotraps<sup>™</sup>, Carboxens<sup>™</sup>, Carbosieve<sup>™</sup>, charcoals, and glass beads. The test probe for this research was a gas mix containing forty-three different analytes whose physical properties ranged from 50 to 280 in molecular weight and -30 to 215°C in boiling point. The analytes in this mixture are a subset of the EPA Hazardous Pollutant list. EPA method TO-17 is the typical method you use to sample these analytes. We introduced this gas mixture to each of the adsorbents using the flash vaporization technique and then challenged each with various sampling volumes ranging from 0.2 to 100 liters. We thermally desorbed each of the adsorbents into a GC/MSD system.



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We are committed to the success of our Customers, Employees and Shareholders through leadership in Life Science, High Technology and Service.

**Carbopack F**

**Carbopack C**

**Carbopack Y**

**Carbopack B**

**Carbopack X**

### Carboxen-1000

(Carbon Molecular Sieve)  
Surface Area: 1200 m<sup>2</sup>/g  
Desorption Temperature: 330 °C

Analyte	Challenge Volume (Liters)				
	0.2	1	10	20	100
Halocarbon 12	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Chloromethane	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Halocarbon 114	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Vinyl chloride	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1,3-Butadiene	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Bromomethane	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Chloroethane	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Halocarbon 11	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Acrylonitrile	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1,1-Dichloroethane	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Methylene chloride	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
3-Chloropropene	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Halocarbon 113	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1,1-Dichloroethane	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
cis-1,2-Dichloroethane	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Chloroform	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1,2-Dichloroethane	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Benzene	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Carbon tetrachloride	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1,2-Dichloropropane	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Trichloroethene	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
cis-1,3-Dichloropropene	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
trans-1,3-Dichloropropene	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Toluene	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1,2-Dibromoethane	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Tetrachloroethene *	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Chlorobenzene *	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Ethylbenzene *	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
m & p-Xylene	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Styrene	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
o-Xylene	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
4-Ethyltoluene	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1,3,5-Trimethylbenzene	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1,2,4-Trimethylbenzene	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1,3-Dichlorobenzene *	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1,4-Dichlorobenzene *	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1,2-Dichlorobenzene *	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Hexachlorobutadiene	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green

**Performance Key**

Rate to test: Recovery is greater than 90%  
 Caution: Recovery is between 21 to 75%  
 Not Recommended: Recovery is less than 20%  
 \* Indicates this analyte was strongly adsorbed

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**Carboxen-1000**

**Carboxen-1001**

**Carboxen-1018**

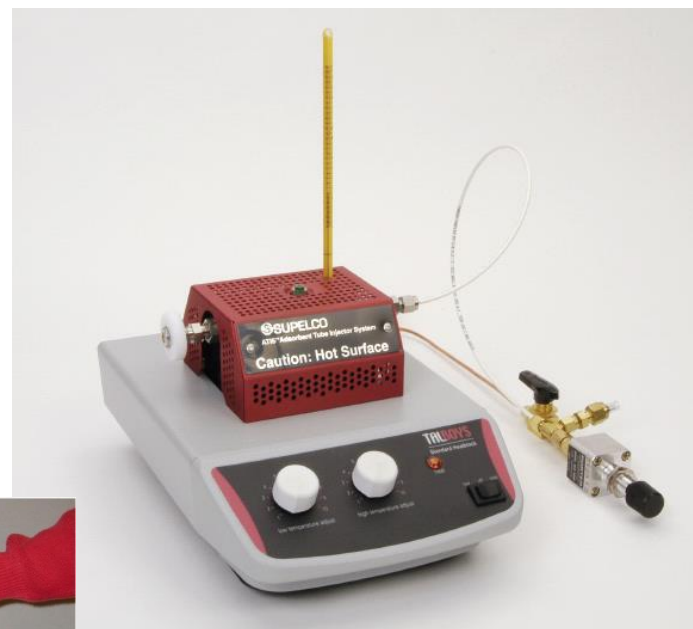
**Carbosieve S-III**

# Spiking the Tubes with the Gas Mix

## Adsorbent Tube Injector System (ATIS)

used for spiking tubes

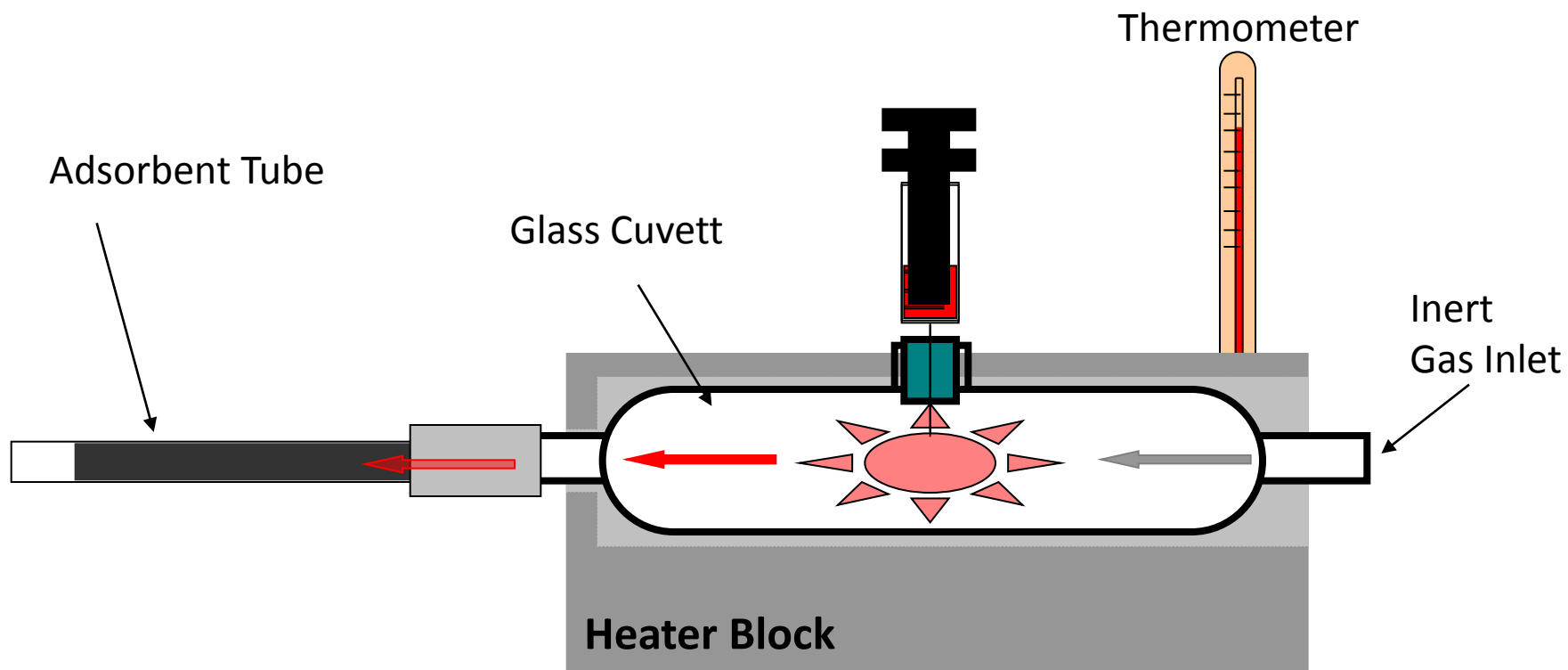
- 20 mL of gas mix
  - 43 Compounds: 50 to 260 in molecular weight,  
*-30 to 215°C in boiling point.*
  - Concentration : 1ppm of each compound
- Injected into a stream of N<sub>2</sub>
- N<sub>2</sub> carried the compounds to the tube
  - Challenges volumes tested



[sigma-aldrich.com/atis](http://sigma-aldrich.com/atis)



# ATIS - Principle



# How to use the performance charts

## Carboxen-1000

(Carbon Molecular Sieve)

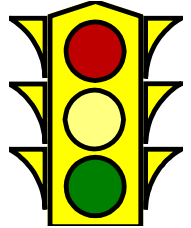
Surface Area: 1200 m<sup>2</sup>/g

Desorption Temperature: 330 °C

Information about the adsorbent

	Challenge Volume (Liters)					
	0.2	1	5	10	20	100
Halocarbon 12	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Chloromethane	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Halocarbon 114	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Vinyl chloride	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1,3-Butadiene	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Bromomethane	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Chloroethane	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Halocarbon 11	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Acrylonitrile	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1,1-Dichloroethene	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Methylene chloride	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
3-Chloropropene	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Halocarbon 113	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1,1-Dichloroethane	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
cis-1,2-Dichloroethene	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Chloroform	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1,2-Dichloroethane	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Benzene	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Carbon tetrachloride	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
1,2-Dichloropropane	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Trichloroethene	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
cis-1,3-Dichloropropene	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
trans-1,3-Dichloropropene	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
Toluene	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow	Yellow
1,2-Dibromoethane	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
Tetrachloroethene	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
Chlorobenzene	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
Hexachlorobutadiene	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red

The 6 volumes studied



**Green** = Recommend for use  
Recoveries are greater than 80%

**Yellow** = Use caution  
(Watch the trend)  
Recoveries are 21 to 79%

**Red** = Not recommend  
Recoveries are below 20%

Too strongly adsorbed

### Performance Key

**Safe to use:** Recovery is greater than 80%

**Caution:** Recovery is between 21 to 79%

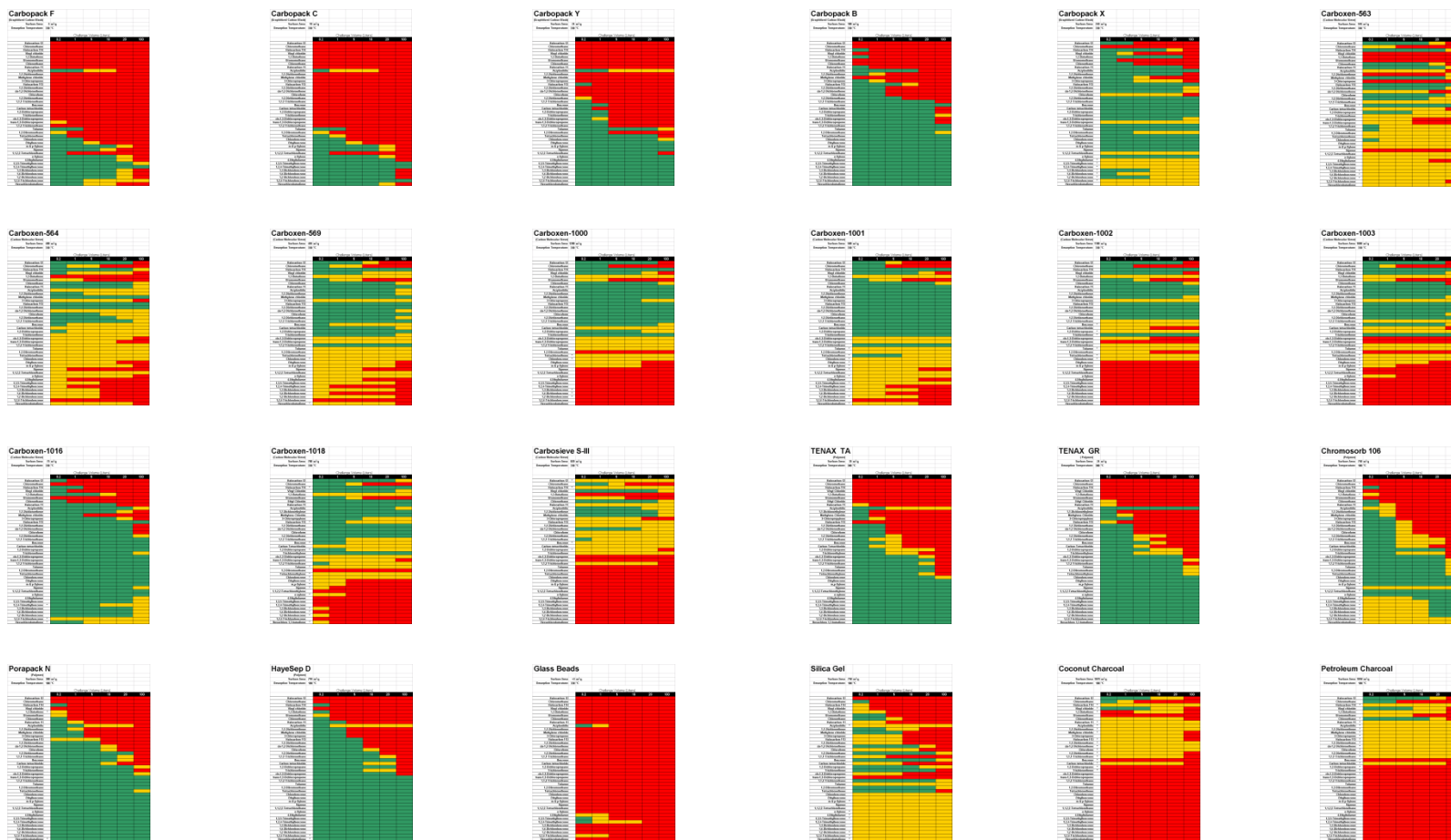
**Not Recommended:** Recovery is less than 20%

\* indicates this analyte was strongly adsorbed

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# The outcome of this research ...



## “Inlet” First adsorbent bed

<b>Carbopack B</b>							
(Graphitized Carbon Black)							
Surface Area:	100 m <sup>2</sup> /g						
Desorption Temperature:	330 °C						
		Challenge Volume (Liters)					
		0.2	1	5	10	20	100
Vinyl chloride		Breaks through					
Methylene chloride							
Toluene		Retained					
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene							

## Back-up adsorbent bed


<b>Carboxen-1003</b>							
(Carbon Molecular Sieve)							
Surface Area:	1000 m <sup>2</sup> /g						
Desorption Temperature:	330 °C						
		Challenge Volume (Liters)					
		0.2	1	5	10	20	100
Vinyl chloride		Retained					
Methylene chloride							
Toluene	*	Carryover was observed (Too Strongly Adsorbed)					
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene		Most likely irreversibly adsorbed					

# Test different Carbon Adsorbents?

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- Selection Guidelines
- Physical Characteristics
- Custom Capabilities
- Carbon Adsorbent Sampler Kits
- Carbon Molecular Sieves
- Spherical Graphitized Polymer Carbons
- Graphitized Carbon Blacks

**SIGMA-ALDRICH**

(MQR)

Adsorbent	Type <sup>1</sup>	S/G <sup>2</sup>	Sc <sup>3</sup>	Approximate						
				Surface Area (m <sup>2</sup> /g)	Pore Volume (cc/g)			Pore Diameter (Å)	Micropore Diameter (Å)	pH
					Macro	Meso	Micro			
Carboxen 1012	CMS	S		1500	—	0.66	—	—	19–21	—
Carboxen 1034	CMS	S	Y	1260	0.10	0.48	0.42	32	5–20	10.5
Carboxen 1000	CMS	S		1200	0.25	0.16	0.44	—	10–12	—
Carboxen 1008	CMS	S		1200	0.25	0.16	0.44	—	10–12	—
Carboxen 1026	CMS	S		1200	—	0.06	0.72	—	4–20	—
Carbosieve G	CMS	G		1160	—	0.02	0.49	—	6–15	—
Carboxen 1005	CMS	S	Y	1150	0.28	0.26	0.47	—	5–8	9.3
Carboxen 572	CMS	S	Y	1100	0.24	0.19	0.41	—	10–12	9.5
Carbosieve S-II	CMS	S		1059	—	0.01	0.45	—	6–15	—
Carboxen 1003	CMS	S	Y	1000	0.28	0.26	0.38	—	5–8	9.2
Carbosieve S-III	CMS	S		975	—	0.04	0.35	—	4–11	—
Carboxen 1032	CMS	S	Y	820	0.10	0.38	0.29	37	4–20	3.0
Carboxen 1030	CMS	S	Y	740	0.11	0.13	0.26	26	5–20	4.0
Carboxen 1006	CMS	S		715	0.23	0.26	0.29	—	7–10	—
Carboxen 1018	CMS	S		675	—	—	0.35	—	6–8	—
Carboxen 1010	CMS	S		675	—	—	0.35	—	6–8	—
Carboxen 1021	CMS	S		600	—	—	0.30	—	5–8	—
Carboxen 563	CMS	S	Y	510	0.24	0.15	0.24	—	7–10	6.8
Carboxen 1001	CMS	S		500	0.11	0.13	0.22	—	5–8	—
Carboxen 569	CMS	S	Y	485	0.10	0.14	0.20	—	5–8	8.6
Carboxen 1033	CMS	S	Y	420	0.10	0.10	0.15	33	5–17	7.0
Carboxen 564	CMS	S	Y	400	0.14	0.13	0.24	—	6–9	8.7
Carbotrap X	GCB	G	Y	240	—	0.62	—	100	—	9.5
Carbopack X	GCB	G		240	—	0.62	—	100	—	—
Carbopack Z	GCB	G		220	—	1.73	—	255	—	—
Purified Carbon Black	CB	G		214	—	0.28	0.06	63.9	—	—
Mesoporous Carbon	GCB	G		203	—	0.49	—	96.3	—	—
Graphsphere 2027	SGPC	S		126	0.20	0.35	—	173	—	—
Graphsphere 2029	SGPC	S		105	0.20	0.26	0.03	180	—	—
Carbotrap B	GCB	G	Y	100	—	—	—	—	—	9.7
Carbopack B	GCB	G		100	—	—	—	—	—	—
Graphsphere 2016	SGPC	S		75	—	0.34	—	—	—	—
Graphitized Carbon Black	GCB	G		70	—	0.23	0.01	137	—	—
Graphsphere 2017	SGPC	S	Y	60	—	0.33	—	—	—	—
Carbotrap Y	GCB	G	Y	24	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carbopack Y	GCB	G		24	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carbotrap C	GCB	G	Y	10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carbopack C	GCB	G		10	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carbotrap F	GCB	G	Y	5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carbopack F	GCB	G		5	—	—	—	—	—	—



Custom Tubes possible!

Sampler Kits

# Conclusion

- Thermal desorption covers a wide range of analytes
  - Available Adsorbents offer enables broad sampling scope
- Single bed tubes are often have limits for a wider analyte portfolio
  - Multibed tubes provide a wider range
- Synthetic carbon adsorbents (Carbopack, Carboxen) are most suitable due to stability, reproducibility & purity
  - Sigma-Aldrich / Supelco has long year experience and wide selection
- Adsorbent selection can be done
  - by literature research (official methods, journal articles, vendor information)
  - using „A Tool for Selecting an Adsorbent for Thermal Desorption”
- Custom selected adsorbents for a multibed tube allow to achieve optimal retention & release characteristics for desired application

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Kristen Schultz - Air Monitoring Product Manager



*Bellefonte, Pennsylvania USA*

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Chromosorb<sup>®</sup> - Imerys Minerals California, Inc. USA

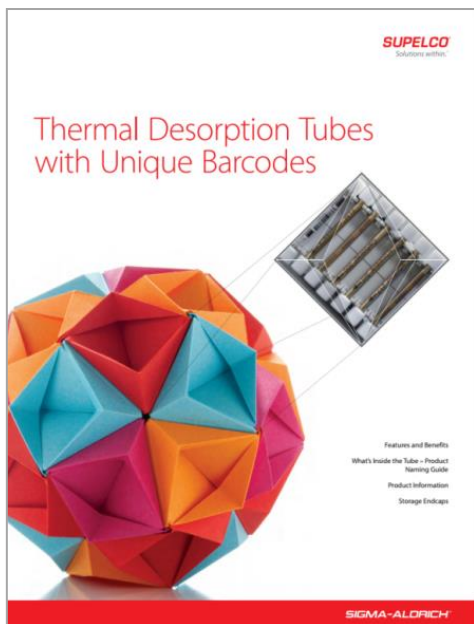
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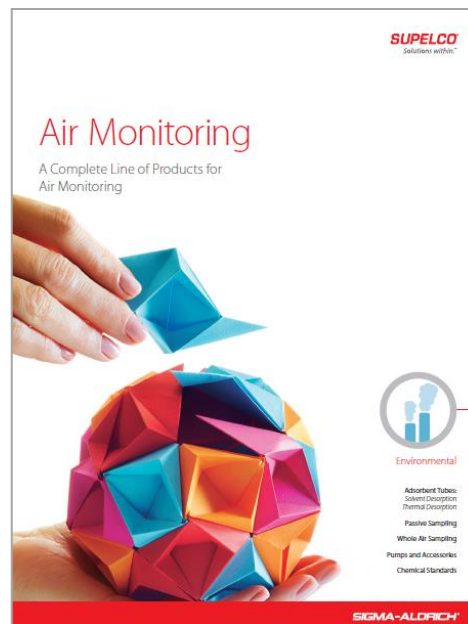
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