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DESICCATOR MAINTENANCE

Supersedes former 34-28-1

A desiccator is used for storing materials and parts which it is desired to keep free from moisture. It is made of glass and consists of: 1) a lower chamber to hold the desiccant; 2) an upper chamber for the materials; 3) a plate with feet and holes for covering the opening between chambers and supporting the materials; 4) a cover which can be sealed air tight. They are available in sizes from a capacity of about 1 to 10 quarts.

** As a drying agent 33-C-18 calcium chloride or 33-D-17 indicating Drierite may be used and to which reference should be made for descriptions.

Fill the desiccant chamber with drying agent. Renew the calcium chloride when the lumps stick together or it becomes pasty, regardless of the length of time it has been used. However, in humid summer weather replace the calcium chloride at least once each month. **Renew the Drierite when it turns pink and reclaim by heating at 200°C for 1 hr. when it should return to original blue color.

To provide an air tight seal for the cover, coat the contact surfaces on the jar and cover with a thin uniform coating of clean "Lubri-Seal" stop cock grease (33-G-17). Place the cover on the jar and move around with a slight circular motion to seal the joint. When the joint is properly sealed one should be able to remove the cover only by sliding it off and not by lifting it.

When the desiccant is renewed the chamber should be cleaned and the jar and cover dried in an oven at 100°C.

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