

AutoBlock™ Plus FAQs

How does the system work?

The AutoBlock Plus is a hands-free metals digestion system that is completely automated and self-contained (no hood required).

What EPA Methods are pre-installed on the AutoBlock Plus?

EPA Methods 200.2, 200.7, 3050B, and 200.8 are programmed. EPA methods for Mercury, 7470A, 7471, and 245.1, are also pre-installed on the AutoBlock Plus.

Do I need to put it in a fume hood?

No, the AutoBlock Plus is a self-contained HEPA-filtered system. It has a computer controlled blower system connected to a 4" port that must be connected to the outside or into a fume hood.

What about corrosion and contamination?

The AutoBlock Plus is manufactured with Kydex ABS plastic to ensure that it will not corrode. It uses the proven HotBlock technology to heat samples and there are no metal parts. The tubing is specifically designed to handle the pH of concentrated acids. There are 4 Vici emitters in the AutoBlock Plus that emit a gas that coats exposed metal parts with an anti-corrosive. The AutoBlock Plus also continuously self-cleans after each reagent addition by flushing the entire fluid delivery system with DI water.

How do I know what is going on or what happened while I was out?

The data logger records the date, time, temperature, and process step every 15 minutes. It will also record if there is an interruption or malfunction. This data can also be transferred to a USB flash drive and uploaded onto a PC for convenient data manipulation with a .txt file.

What about the safety of the system?

As a safety feature, the unit automatically shuts down if there is a leak in the pump housing, a voltage malfunction, or if the vent fan fails. The enclosure circulates HEPA filtered air through the AutoBlock Plus.

Can this unit be used for both water and soil samples?

Yes, the AutoBlock Plus can be used for many applications. The unit comes pre-installed with the following EPA Methods: 200.2, 200.7, 200.8, 3050B, 7470A, 7471, and 245.1. Also, any new program can be designed and/or modified to the exact specifications needed by the laboratory.

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How often does it need to be calibrated?

The AutoBlock Plus requires an initial calibration of temperature and volume. Always use a volume of 30mL for calibration. The temperature should be calibrated annually and the volume approximately every month, depending on use.

How will I know if something needs to be replaced?

The AutoBlock Plus screen will display a message to let the user know which parts need replacement, along with the part numbers and ordering information. The HEPA filter should be replaced approximately every 6 months. The pump tubing and Vici emitters should be replaced annually. These dates can also be tailored and modified to the laboratory's needs.

What is the warranty of the system?

The Environmental Express AutoBlock Plus is warranted to heat, hold temperature, automatically add reagents, lift sample racks, cool samples with air flow, and perform the stated functions for a period of one year from date of shipment. If the system fails to adequately perform specified laboratory digestions under normal laboratory use, then the item is fully covered by the 1-year warranty.