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Why Do I See Salt Crystals on My pH Electrode?

Dear Milwaukee Instruments Customer,

You may occasionally notice white salt crystals or residue around the protective cap of your pH electrode when you first receive your meter or after storage. This is completely normal and is a sign that your electrode has been properly stored and maintained.

All Milwaukee pH electrodes are shipped with a storage solution inside the protective cap to keep the sensing glass hydrated and ready for accurate measurements. During shipping and storage, a small amount of this solution may evaporate or seep from the cap, leaving behind visible salt crystals.

While the appearance of these deposits can sometimes be surprising, they do not indicate damage, leakage, or a defect. In fact, they are a normal characteristic of properly stored pH electrodes used throughout the industry.

The information below explains why salt deposits occur, what they are made of, and what (if anything) you need to do before using your meter.



What is Salt Creep?

Every combination pH meter is shipped with a probe stored in storage solution. The solution will find its way outside the storage cap and salt deposits will be seen.

How salty is 3.5M KCl?

It takes 260g of KCl to a total volume of 1 liter or about 1/2lb of salt to 4 cups of water. Storage solution is formulated with a high salt concentration to minimize the diffusion of the 3.5M Potassium Chloride from the inside of the pH electrode, through the junction to the outside of the probe.

Should you be concerned?

No, it is perfectly normal and common to most manufacturers

What should I do?

Just rinse off with water. There is nothing else to do.



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