

May, 2011

AVOIDING POSSIBLE NITROGEN SPARGE PROBLEMS WHEN USING THE DRYVAP®

This month's topic of discussion will be on the drying capability of the DryVap® Concentrator System. The focus will be on how to properly dry your extracts and what to avoid.

I receive questions asking why the nitrogen flow (sparge) has been reduced, nonexistent or excessive within one or all of the concentrator tubes. This action is most likely due to sodium sulfate being used as the inline-drying agent on the DryVap. The examples below indicate some of the possible problems that can occur to the DryVap when sodium sulfate is used as the inline-drying agent.



1. When sodium sulfate is used as a drying agent and placed into the DryDisk® reservoir without a DryDisk, the granules of sodium sulfate can be pulled into the sparge valve. This will keep the valve from properly sealing resulting in an excessive sparge.
2. On the concentrator tube lids there are three fittings. Do not over tighten these fittings. If sodium sulfate is used you can see the result in the picture below by over tightening. This will result in reduced or nonexistent sparge flow within the concentrator tubes.



3. This can be avoided if you are using a DryDisk or drytube for inline drying. The DryDisk will only allow solvents to flow through the membrane, leaving any water or particulates behind.