

Silica gel

Silica gel is a highly porous form of silica. The considerable surface area of its particles and the relative polarity of the silica molecules enable the typical use of silica gel:

Dryer

Silica gel binds water effectively. "Wet" desiccant can easily be regenerated by heating to higher temperatures. A coloured indicator is often added to silica gel-based desiccants so that it is easy to recognize that the desiccant is used up.

Stationary phase in chromatographic methods

Silica gel is used as a polar stationary phase in thin layer chromatography (TLC) and some column chromatography. The use of silicate columns for the isolation of nucleic acids is popular.



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