

OAKTON® TECH TIPS

pHTestr™ Care

Tech Tip #7 ©1997

The OAKTON® pHTestr is a low-cost, exciting innovation for pH testing. It can do the work of hundreds of rolls of pH paper when cared for properly. Frequently a low cost, pocket-sized device will be abused because the user is not aware of its limits of application or durability. This is a problem common to many portable electronic devices. Keep in mind that the more careful the treatment, the longer the life of the pHTestr. Here are some basic DO'S and DONT'S:

DO NOT:

DO NOT submerge, spray, or otherwise waterlog your pHTestr.

DO NOT immerse at or above the colored band.

DO NOT drop, hit, or cause physical shock to your pHTestr. The electronic instrumentation and glass sensing bulbs are delicate.

DO NOT touch anything solid to the glass bulb electrode or it will break.

DO NOT throw away the instruction sheet or protective box that comes with your pHTestr, because there is useful information listed for reference purposes.

DO:

DO calibrate your pHTestr in a pH buffer solution once a week or at any time you suspect a problem with the readings. This is the surest way to check the operation of the pHTestr. If the testr calibrates at a pH other than 7, your pHTestr probably works.

DO change the batteries if you cannot calibrate and/or if the reading fades or is suspect. Low batteries are the pHTestrs' most common ailment.

DO store the pHTestr with tap water, or electrode storage solution soaked in a piece of sponge or paper in the cap to prevent the dehydration of the electrode and premature failure of the pHTestr. This procedure also speeds up the response time of the pHTestr.

DO store your pHTestr in an area where the temperature is within 32 and 122 degrees F. Extreme temperatures will damage the electronics.

DO consult your distributor concerning applications involving harsh chemicals or solvents and viscous samples to determine the suitability of the pHTestr.

If you are concerned about treatment other than the points mentioned above, please remember the following: the pHTestr is a digital electronic instrument that has a delicate and exposed glass electrode. It is designed to give six months or more of reliable service following the care and use guidelines on the instruction sheet and box and in this Tech Tip Bulletin.