

PDMS Cleanliness

In order to minimize the amount of PDMS particulates and residues around the Cleanroom, users need to be very stringent when using PDMS to make sure there are no left-over residue, as these residues could be affecting PDMS fabrication (bonding, etc.) and other users work.

- 1) Only do PDMS in the West Wetbench (no mixing PDMS mixing outside the Wetbench) and on the stainless steel tables. PDMS work cannot be done on any other benches.
- 2) Always place cleanroom wipes below any PDMS containers or pieces before placing them on any surface (Wetbench, stainless steel table).
- 3) Place a cleanroom wipe on the scale before measuring the PDMS, this is often where PDMS is spilled during measurement.
- 4) Wipe the mouth of the bottles the PDMS Elastomer and Curing Agent after using them to eliminate the mess in the storage shelf. Place aluminum foil on the shelf so the bottles do not come into direct contact with the shelf.
- 5) Do not place pieces of PDMS directly on any other pieces of equipment (bare work surfaces, microscope stage, weighing balance, etc) . Use wipes or aluminum foil.
- 6) Throw out empty containers of PDMS when done with them.
- 7) Make sure that any tweezers, spinner, mixing tools you use have absolutely NO PDMS remains on them. The solvent toluene does a good job at removing PDMS.

Those working with PDMS know how hard PDMS is to clean up and how after using PDMS their gloves are coated in uncured elastomer/curing agent from the outside of bottles. Change gloves frequently. Eliminate any mess and this will lead to more consistent results from everyone.

(Adapted from the Nanofab Center, University of Alberta)
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