
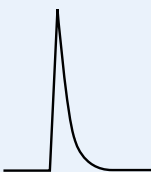
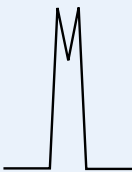
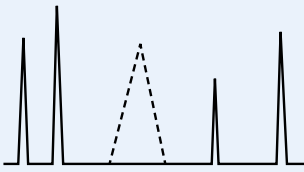



Problem	Resolution
No column flow	<p>Check carrier gas flow and adjust. Replace septum/injector seal with Auto-Sep T™ septum. Visually check column integrity i.e. is it broken? Remove section if small enough or replace column.</p>
High column bleed	<p>Check published maximum temperature. Check carrier flow rates / velocity, correct for column/length – adjust if necessary. Check column has not moved in detector. Check for leaks produced during initial heating especially Vespel® ferrules. Check oxygen filter is not spent – replace if necessary. Make sure detector temperature is higher than final column temperature if possible. Check cleanliness of detector – clean if necessary. Recondition column – re-run conditioning program. Cut 50 cm from the front end of the column.</p>
Retention time shifts	<p>Check temperature program. Check injector temperature. Ensure manual injection technique is consistent. Check carrier gas flow rate / velocity. Check for injector leaks. Ensure same solvent being used. Column is contaminated - rinse or replace. Remove 50 cm from front of column. Phase breakdown – replace column.</p>
Poor resolution or loss of resolution	<p>Use correct column or phase. Use different temperature program. Check injector temperature – is it correct for solvent and analytes. Check injection technique. Check carrier flow / velocity. Sample overload - dilute or change split ratio. Contaminated column – rinse or replace. Phase breakdown – replace column.</p>
Phase breakdown	<p>Check for leaks and repair. Check oxygen traps and replace if necessary. Exceeded upper temperature limit of column for extended periods – replace column. Column contamination – replace column (perform extra clean up of samples). Damage due to sample – do not inject strong acid or base samples.</p>
Poor or no detector response for all peaks	<p>Correct injection technique for concentration of analyte. Check proper liner is used for injection technique. Check syringe needle not blocked or plunger is leaking. Check split ratio if using split technique. Check injector temperature is correct. Check detector temperature is correct. Check flow rates of detector gas(es). Error in sample concentration – verify concentrations.</p>
Detector problems	<p>PID - Dirty window – clean according to manufacturer's specifications. ELCD - Faulty reactor tube. - Contaminated alcohol. - Incorrect alcohol flow rate. ECD - Impurities in nitrogen. - Dirty detector; clean (bake) according to manufacturer's specifications. NPD - Bad bead. FID - Partially blocked jet. FPD - Incorrect gas flow rates. - Incorrect filter installed. - Clean filter. TCD - Balance flow rates.</p>

Poor Peak Shape

Problem	Reason	Resolution
Peak Fronting 	Column overload.	Reduce sample concentration or injection volume.
	Incorrect polarity of column for compound.	Use correct column (see column selection section pages 80-81).
Peak Tailing 	Column is active.	Remove first meter of column; recheck; replace column if necessary.
	Active inlet liner.	Replace liner with clean, deactivated liner (for more information on SGE liner deactivation see page 157).
	Incorrect column for analysis.	Use correct column (see column selection section page 80-81).
	Incorrect column installation.	Check inlet and outlet connections, and for any cold spots.
Peak Splitting 	Poor injection technique.	Refine injection technique.
	Mixed solvents.	Use only single solvent system.
	Poor resolution.	Use different column or change temperature profile.
Ghost Peaks 	Run GC without injection; if ghost peaks disappear then the problem is probably the syringe or solvent; if ghost peaks are still evident then the problem is either the septum or the breakdown of the phase.	
	Contaminated syringe or solvents.	Clean syringe thoroughly and replace solvents.
	Septum bleed.	Replace with new Auto-Sep T™ septum (see Instrument Quick Pick Guide 167-180).
	Breakdown of column phase.	Choose different phase which restricts breakdown.
	Too large an injection volume.	Decrease injection volume.
Specific Peaks Low Response 	Column is active.	Remove first meter of column; recheck; replace column if necessary.
	Active inlet liner.	Replace liner with clean, deactivated liner.
	Incorrect calculation of sample.	Verify calculations.
	FID altered gas flows.	Readjust gas flows.