



Waste Anesthetic Gas (WAG) Canisters are anesthetic gas filters that are designed to remove waste anesthetic gases using a passive system that relies on anesthesia flow (oxygen mixed with Isoflurane or Sevoflurane) and the anesthetized animal's exhalation volume to push the waste anesthetic into the charcoal canister.

The activated charcoal in WAG Canisters is developed specifically to remove anesthetic gases such as isoflurane, sevoflurane, halothane, and enflurane. However, it does not have the capability to extract oxygen, carbon dioxide, or nitrous oxide from the surrounding environment.

The WAG canisters are a vital component of anesthetic equipment to protect the user's health and safety.

USER INSTRUCTIONS

Pre-Use

- Develop a lab-specific standard operating procedure (SOP) for operation of the anesthesia machine that includes provisions for a canister logbook. Canister weight will be entered into the logbook after every use and when a new canister is started.
- Ensure that all users: (1) read the SOP, (2) are trained on the SOP, and (3) sign it.
- WAG canisters must be replaced after a maximum weight gain as determined by the manufacturer (e.g., F/Air canisters are discarded after a 50g weight gain from its original weight).
- WAG canisters must be upright* (Figure 1) so that the gas exhaust flows from the top to the bottom. When WAG canisters are placed on their sides (Figure 2), the gas exhausts may bypass the charcoal filters.



Figure 1. Correct orientation.



Figure 2. Incorrect orientation.

During Use

- Weigh the WAG canister at the end of each anesthesia session to ensure it is within the manufacturer's saturation limits.
- Record the date and weight of the canister on the canister's side after each use - see Figure 3 below.
- When in use, do not restrict the WAG canister's vent holes. The ports must be unobstructed for the scrubbed (clean) air to completely pass through.

Post Use

- Used WAG canisters must be disposed of as chemical waste. Place the used canisters in a ziploc bag and apply a hazardous waste label.
- Record the anesthetic gases on the label.
- Request a hazardous waste pickup at the [Request a Hazardous Waste Pickup](#) web page.

Storage

Store unused WAG canisters in a cool, dry place. Note that moisture adsorption could interfere with their functionality, thus reducing their effectiveness in capturing the anesthetic gases.

Record date and weight of the canister in: (a) designated fields on the canister side and (b) the canister logbook.

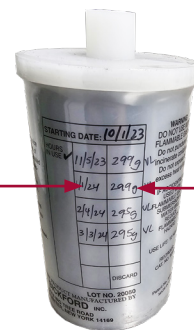


Figure 3. Date/Weight label.

* NOTE: Operate WAG canisters in the upright position and elevated off a flat surface when the exhaust ports are on the bottom.

