

Critical Point Drying

1. LOG IN
2. Dehydrate specimens to 100% Ethanol or Acetone.
3. Ensure all valves are closed.
4. Pre-cool chamber by opening "**COOL Valve**" until chamber temperature is +5°C. Avoid excessive flow and freezing up.
5. Load specimens.
6. Tighten thumb screws in alternate fashion until tight.
7. Open valve on liquid CO₂ tank.
8. Using the "**INLET valve**" fill the chamber to the red centerline.
9. Soak for ~3 minutes with stirrer. More for "tougher" samples.
10. Turn off stirrer
11. Purge chamber using the "**EXHAUST valve**" to the bottom of the window.
12. Repeat soak and purge (7-9) until no more Ethanol is observed coming from the exhaust port.
13. Fill chamber with CO₂ to the centerline mark.
14. Close all valves. Don't forget the CO₂ tank valve.
15. Switch on heater.
16. After chamber reaches 35°C and 1250 psi. slowly depressurize the system using method a or b below. Don't be surprised if the temperature overshoots to 40°C.
 - a. Tough tissues using "**EXHAUST valve**" ~100 psi / minute depressurization.
 - b. Delicate tissues using "**BLEED valve**" ~100cm³ / minute depressurization.
17. Remove samples.