

Cleaning 2.5 mm Fiber Optic Connections

The Need For Cleaning

The need to clean fiber optic connectors is well documented. The more difficult operation is cleaning the “backplane” end face. This inaccessible end face, located on the backside of the alignment sleeve is subject to contamination from the patchcord connection. Airborne soils can accumulate around the ferrules in the alignment sleeve and will be transferred within the alignment sleeve to the patchcord ferrule. This occurs not only in field applications, but also in central office and OEM applications. Such contamination can cause signal attenuation or, in worst case reports, complete interruption of the signal.

The Better Way

- 1) Disconnect the patch cord connections.
- 2) The patchcord connection is effectively cleaned using a QbE® Cleaning System.
 - Pull one QbE® Wipe over the Fiber-Safe™ neoprene platen
 - Hold the end face at 90 degrees perpendicular to the platen
 - Draw the end face lightly over the platen in a smooth linear motion
 - Do not press too hard. Do not retrace your cleaning procedure in the same area.
 - Do not use a figure-eight motion; do not use a “twist & turn” motion
 - Check your work with a fiber scope or a measuring device

If using a solvent is necessary:

 - Lightly “spot” the QbE® wiper with Electro-Wash® PX Fiber Optic Cleaner (ES810)
 - Draw the end face from the solvent wetted area to the dry area
 - Check your work with a fiber scope or a measuring device

- 3) With the patchcord removed from the bulkhead the backplane connector is cleaned effectively with Coventry™ 48040 Fiber Optic Cleaning Swab. Lightly moisten the swab by spotting a small amount of Electro-Wash® PX into the QbE® and dabbing the swab onto the wetted area. Insert the swab into the connector, press lightly against the connector, twist 2-3 times and remove. Dry with a second swab.



4) Reinsert the patchcord and test for signal strength.

Availability

Coventry™ Fiber Optic Foam Swab

48040 500 swabs per bag

Electro-Wash® PX Fiber Optic Cleaner

ES810 5 oz. aerosol

QbE® Cleaning System

QbE 200 wipe cleaning platform / ~ 400 applications

TECHNICAL & APPLICATION ASSISTANCE

ITW Chemtronics® provides a technical hotline to answer your technical and application related questions. The toll-free number is: 1-800-TECH-401 (1-800-832-4401).

NOTE: This information is believed to be accurate. It is intended for professional end users having the skills to evaluate and use the data properly. ITW CHEMTRONICS® does not guarantee the accuracy of the data and assumes no liability in connection with damages incurred while using it.

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