



Storage and Handling of Microscope Slides and Cover Glasses

We classified our microscope slides and cover glasses as in-vitro diagnostic medical devices according to the European Directive 98/79/EC (so-called IVDD). Proper storage and handling are important to maintain the quality of our microscope slides and cover glasses, please read and follow this detailed Information.

Storage instructions

Multilingual "Usage, Storage and Cautionary Statements" are included in every shipping carton of microscope slides and cover glasses we sell. Important storage instructions are:

- Keep dry.
- Avoid large variations in temperature during storage and usage. Cooling of the product can cause condensation and lead to condensed water forming between the glasses. We recommend a storage temperature between 2°C/ 36°F and 30°C/86°F and storage at maximum 60 % relative air humidity.
- Use older products in storage first. Follow the FIFO (first in, first out) principle.
- Protect the bottom of the carton from dampness. Store product away from cement floors.
- Slides and cover glass cases must be allowed to come slowly to room temperature in the lab before they are opened. At least 24 hours are recommended for acclimation.
- See Use-by date on the slide package for the storage time / shelf life of the product.

This Information replaces the one from November 24, 2011 and is valid from now on.

1. Use-by date

Microscope Slides:

The shelf-life of microscope slides is indicated by the Use-by date (Sand glass symbol followed by a date) printed on the package, and depends on several variables such as storage conditions, transport conditions, variations in temperature and humidity, and handling. Following the storage instructions in point No. 2 will ensure the continued quality of our microscope slides. Special packaging of the glass provide additional protection against environmental conditions when necessary. Due to the composition of the glass, the alkaline content (SiO₂, CaO, MgO und Na₂O) in combination with humidity can lead to an alteration of the glass surface after a certain time. The alteration becomes visible as a fine white haze on the glass surface. The surface of the microscope slide can no longer be cleaned. It is no longer suitable for use. Following the storage instructions and instructions for use will ensure the quality of the microscope slides until the Use-by date is reached. According to EN ISO 15223-1 standard, the Use-by date is the date after which the microscope slides are not be used anymore.

Cover Glasses:

Our cover glasses have a different structure and different glass composition compared to the glass used for microscope slides. Following the storage instructions in point No. 2 will ensure the continued quality of our cover glasses. There is no specified Use-by date for our cover glass.



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Slides & Specialty Glass

Thermo Fisher Scientific
Gerhard Menzel B.V. & Co. KG
Saarbrückener Straße 248
38116 Braunschweig, Germany

Tel. +49 (0) 531 59 00 80
Fax +49 (0) 531 50 97 99
menzel.marketing@thermofisher.com

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