



Maintenance of a Freeze Dryer

Most Commonly Asked Questions



HOW LOUD IS A FREEZE DRYER?

Technically, the freeze dryer runs at about 65 decibels which isn't too bad. However, it is a little noisy for a kitchen. You should expect your freeze dryer to produce noise during the second half of the freeze-drying process when the vacuum pump is running. The beginning phase (during the freeze process) will not be noisy at all. Comparatively, dishwashers and washing machines have been noisy for years. They are finally getting a little quieter. Because of the noise from a washing machine, homebuilders adjusted and started building laundry rooms to minimize the noise. Harvest Right suggests the same for your freeze dryer. Keep it in your laundry room, a utility room, an extra kitchen/bedroom, or even in your garage.

HOW HARD IS IT TO PUT OIL IN MY FREEZE DRYER?

It's simple. Just unscrew the cap on your vacuum pump and pour oil in until it reaches the fill line. If you're used to filling your dishwasher and your washing machine with detergent, you'll feel completely comfortable filling your vacuum pump.



DO I HAVE TO DRAIN MY OIL?

To keep your freeze dryer running properly, simply drain the oil out of the vacuum pump at the end of each batch. It takes just a few seconds to unscrew the spout and allow the oil to drain into a filter that is provided with the freeze dryer. If you can clean the lint out of your clothes dryer, you can drain out the oil from a freeze dryer vacuum pump.

The oil, used in the vacuum pumps, is food grade mineral oil. If you get a little oil spill it is easy to wipe up.

DOES MY FREEZE DRYER NEED A FILTER?

The freeze dryer itself does not need a filter. However, if you would like to save money on oil, Harvest Right provides a simple oil filter with every freeze dryer. To recycle your oil, simply drain the oil directly from the

pump into the filter container and let the filter do the rest. Once the oil has drained into the bottom plastic portion of the filter, you can pour the oil back into your freeze dryer's vacuum pump and re-use it just as if it were new oil.



DO I NEED TO DRAIN THE WATER FROM MY FREEZE DRYER?

During the process of freeze drying, the water in the material being freeze dried sublimates (evaporates) and freezes in the drying chamber. At the end of the process the freeze dryer has a defrost cycle that changes the frozen water (that was removed from the material you were drying) back into a liquid form. It then drains out of the chamber into a container of your choice. Simply pour the water into a sink or use it to water your plants.

IS THE FREEZE DRYER TOO HEAVY FOR ONE PERSON TO LIFT?

Depending on the model, the freeze dryers weigh between 75 lbs. and 150 lbs. It is best to have two people available help move your freeze dryer to the location where you want to keep it. You can place the freeze dryer on a rolling cart if you want the freedom to move your freeze dryer around. Otherwise a simple table or counter will suffice.

