



# Tech Report 201:

# Baseplate and Gasket

## Cleaning and Disinfecting

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*Culturing Cells in a Mechanically Active Environment*<sup>™</sup>  
Flexcell International Corporation • 437 Dimmocks Mill Road, Suite 28 • Hillsborough, NC 27278  
800-728-3714 • (919) 732-1591 • FAX: (919) 732-5196 • [www.flexcellint.com](http://www.flexcellint.com)

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## CLEANING

The black urethane baseplate should not be autoclaved or washed in a dishwasher because the high temperature will cause warping. The red rubber gasket should not be subjected to the high temperatures involved with autoclaving or in dishwashers. Both baseplate and gasket should be cleaned with regular laboratory detergent, rinsed with warm tap water, followed by distilled or deionized water and allowed to dry. The baseplate should be dried and stored on a flat surface. Do not hang the red gasket on pegs to dry as the gasket can be stretched. Protect both pieces from UV light exposure.

## DISINFECTING

To disinfect, use a mild bleach (commercial bleach solution such as "Clorox" or other laundry bleach solution is normally 5.25% sodium hypochlorite) solution (1:500, bleach to water) or a 1% benzalkonium chloride solution, which can be sprayed, poured or wiped on both pieces and allowed to stand on surfaces for at least 5 minutes. Rinse with distilled or deionized water. The above solutions are effective against yeast and fungi. A 70% ethanol solution also can be applied and pieces allowed to air dry, do not wipe dry. Tubing on the baseplate may be flushed with 70% ethanol, but be sure tubing is completely dry before connecting to the Flexcell® Tension System. Contact time (time surface remains wet) of the above solutions is critical to the effectiveness of disinfecting. Times given are minimal and longer contact times are recommended in cases where contamination is severe.

The above decontamination procedure should be performed before and after each use of the baseplate and gasket or whenever media is spilled onto these surfaces. Be sure that the openings and the channels in the

baseplate are dry and clear of any obstructions before using.

## STORAGE

Do not store baseplate or gasket in an incubator as the warm, humid conditions will promote growth of microorganisms. After cleaning and disinfecting, seal baseplate and gasket in a plastic bag. Store baseplate flat ensuring that the entire bottom of the baseplate is supported to prevent warping. Store gasket away from UV light exposure.