

Cleaning Seeflex Connectors



SEEFLEX 040E

In most cases, maintaining your BFM® products is purely a case of good housekeeping. The media used to manufacture our connectors will naturally wear with usage over time, however, good maintenance will give you the best possible life.



SEEFLEX 040AS

You should not prod or push the connectors with sharp objects. These fittings are designed to be removed and installed by hand, and the use of tools such as pliers and screwdrivers could easily damage them.



SEEFLEX 020E

If you have any difficulty removing smaller sized connectors, consider using the special BFM® TR (Tool Release) tool (refer to 'Guidelines: Tool Release' for more information).

MANUAL CLEANING

The best way to clean the BFM® Seeflex connectors is with Isopropyl alcohol, which leaves the connectors clear as a window and has the added advantage of sanitizing the connector.



You can also rinse or wash your BFM® connector using non-corrosive detergents in warm water. It is important that the BFM® connector is wiped clean and dry of any residual chemicals after washing, and the internal surfaces of the BFM® spigots are also wiped clean and dry.

CIP (CLEAN IN PLACE)

You can use BFM fittings in CIP processes that use detergents or chemicals. If your process uses purely detergent, there will be no issues.

If the CIP process involves chemicals, there are a few guidelines to follow.

The following percentages are the maximum recommended concentration levels that should be used during CIP for acid and caustic:

- Acid: No more than 0.8%**
- Caustic: No more than 1.5%**

Any greater concentration does not provide an increased benefit in terms of cleaning the system, and could also adversely effect other parts in the system such as seals and gaskets.

IMPORTANT:

ALWAYS WIPE YOUR BFM® FITTING AFTER CIP BFM® Global recommends that the BFM® connectors are removed after CIP to clean any remaining chemicals, both inside and out.

Also, check that CIP chemicals are carefully cleaned off the BFM® spigots prior to snapping the clean connector back in place.



NOTE: Over time, the chemicals used in CIP may cause a slight yellowing of the Seeflex material, but it will not affect the connector performance or integrity.

Cleaning woven connectors & breather bags



LM3

In most cases, maintaining your BFM® products is purely a case of good housekeeping.

The media used to manufacture our fabric connectors and breather bags will naturally wear with usage over time, however good maintenance will give you the best possible life.



LM4

You should not prod or push the connectors or breather bags with sharp objects. These fittings are designed to be removed and installed by hand, and the use of tools such as pliers and screwdrivers could easily damage them.

If you have any difficulty removing smaller sized connectors, consider using the special BFM® TR (Tool Release) tool (refer to 'Guidelines: Tool Release' for more information).



TEFLEX



BREATHER BAG

Remember that the BFM® woven connectors and breather bags will lose some efficiency each time they are washed.

For hygiene and performance reasons, we recommend regular replacement of these products.

MANUAL CLEANING

WOVEN CONNECTORS:

- Agitate connector in bath of warm water, mild detergent and disinfectants.
- If contaminant is milk powder or protein based, soak overnight in 0.5% enzyme based detergent.
- Rinse with low pressure hose or fresh water bath.
- If sanitation is required, you may need to immerse in a sanitation solution.
- Drain BFM® and air dry thoroughly

BREATHER BAGS (FM1):

- Breather bags can be washed (as per above) but it is not recommended. The media has a dust release surface which helps keep it efficient and aids dust release and this will deteriorate making it less effective each time it is washed.
- It is best to either blow an air-gun through (in reverse and not too close), use a vacuum or shake/brush any dust from the breather bag.

CIP (CLEAN IN PLACE)

Woven connectors are permeable and likely to leak liquids, especially when under pressure, so CIP is not generally recommended.

However, if you do wish to use CIP with a woven connector and you are purely using detergents, there will not be a problem.

If the CIP process involves chemicals, there are a few guidelines to follow.

The following percentages are the maximum recommended concentration levels that should be used during CIP for acid and caustic:

Acid: No more than 0.8%
Caustic: No more than 1.5%

Any greater concentration does not provide an increased benefit in terms of cleaning the system, and could also adversely effect other parts in the system such as seals and gaskets.

IMPORTANT:

ALWAYS WIPE YOUR BFM® FITTING AFTER CIP BFM® Global recommends that the BFM® connectors are removed after CIP to clean any remaining chemicals, both inside and out. Also, check that the BFM® spigots are cleaned of any chemical prior to snapping the clean connector back in place.

BFM® FITTING MUST BE THOROUGHLY DRY BEFORE RE-USE to avoid powder sticking to the connector and building up.



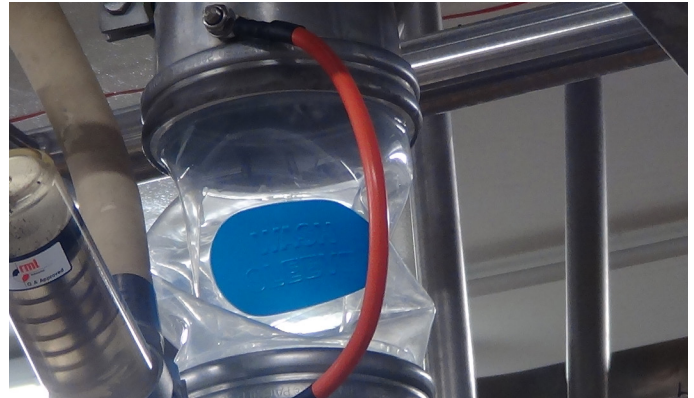
CIP (Clean In Place) Change-Over

BFM® fitting works very well in CIP (Clean in Place) installations. The tight seal, impervious media and ease of removal make cleaning and maintenance during CIP a breeze.

Seeflex 040E has excellent abrasion and chemical resistance. The connector can be used during the CIP process and very easily removed for cleaning any residual chemicals.

Many companies like to have a separate connector especially for the CIP process. BFM® can supply a product that is clearly marked 'Wash Sleeve' (see adjacent picture), and the ease of change means this connector can be simply snapped in for the wash cycle only.

You can view a video of a BFM® working in a CIP application on our YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/thebfmfitting



BFM® WASH SLEEVE CONNECTOR

ENSURE GOOD CLEANING PRACTICES ARE FOLLOWED

In most cases, maintaining the BFM® connector is purely a matter of good housekeeping. If the CIP chemicals (usually either caustic or acid) are not washed off thoroughly then they will leave yellow stains on the Seeflex 040E media. This is not contamination but simply discoloration of the media through a lack of rinsing. Chemical solution that remains on the connector will evaporate leaving a corrosive layer of chemical on the connector fabric.



KEEP WITHIN RECOMMENDED CHEMICAL CONCENTRATION LEVELS

Below are the maximum concentration levels that should be used during a CIP for acid and caustic. Any greater level does not provide an increased benefit in terms of cleaning the system, it is purely wasting chemicals. Excess levels will also adversely affect other parts in the system, such as seals and gaskets.

ACID: No more than 0.8%
CAUSTIC: No more than 1.5%

AVOID THE FOLLOWING:

- Peroxyacetic acid and Sodium Hypochlorite as it is extremely harsh on rubbers, gaskets and seals, including the Urethane of BFM® Seeflex connectors. If required, do not use in high concentrations or with temperatures over 45°C/113°F as it is too harsh.
- Washing in water over 100°/212°F or exposing to direct steam.

