

C18 ('Ziptip') Protocol

This is a useful cleaning method for proteins and peptides. It does however effectively bind polymers and SDS if there are excessive amounts of these in your sample- so these are contaminants to avoid if possible.

1. Activate the column with 20 μ l 50% ACN: 0.1% TFA. Be sure to leave a small amount of liquid so that the column doesn't dry out!
2. Wash the excess 50% ACN: 0.1% TFA off the column with 20 μ l 0.1% TFA.
3. Load sample onto column, putting flow through back into the sample eppendorf. Max volume 60 μ l.
4. Wash the unbound waste away with 20 μ l of 0.1% TFA.
5. Elute the bound peptides from the column using 2 X 40 μ l 50%ACN:0.1% TFA into a new 0.5ml eppendorf to give a total final volume of 80 μ l.
6. Dry the samples down to approx. 10 μ l using a vacuum centrifuge (60°C).

Making C18 Columns

1. Make a slurry of C18 using 500 μ l of POROS reversed-phase packing and 700 μ l of 70% ACN: 0.1% TFA. Store the slurry at 4°C. It is advisable to re-make the slurry at least every month to maintain the quality of your tips.
2. Take a blunt ended needle and push a small circle of C18 filter disk into a gel loading tip to act as a stopper.
3. Load 10 μ l of 0.1% TFA, then 7 μ l of the slurry and push through the tip until the slurry is packed into a column.
4. Store Ziptips at 4°C.

