



**GC is in Stand-by mode or Not ready mode while analyzing dirty samples.**

**I process a lot of dirty samples and my GC system sometimes gets stuck in stand-by mode even though I faithfully perform inlet maintenance twice a week. What's wrong?**

One of the reason why the GC gets stuck on stand-by or in the "not ready" mode after consistently running dirty samples for a number of months can be Split Vent Trap. But first let us ask a simple question, **"When we are checking and replacing the septum, liner and o-ring during inlet maintenance, do we also take time to check and change the split vent trap?"**



The split vent trap can be easily overlooked, but is critical since it collects sample and can get clogged.

If the answer is, "No," and probably the split vent trap is most likely the source of the problem. The split vent trap is hard to see when performing inlet maintenance and can therefore be easily overlooked.

The split vent trap's purpose is to collect – or trap – excess sample material that was not swept onto the column for analysis. Naturally, because it's constantly collecting sample it gets dirty. That means it needs to be replaced on a regular basis, typically every six months, or it can get clogged.

What happens when the split vent trap gets clogged? It can act as a restrictor creating higher back pressure in the system and can cause the GC to get stuck in stand-by or not-ready mode... forcing for a request a service call.

We can avoid this problem quite simply. Just include changing the split vent trap in your bi-annual GC maintenance program. It's easy to do... adds only a few minutes to the maintenance protocol... and avoids unnecessary downtime and service calls.

Keep in mind that you may need to replace your split vent trap more often if you:

- Typically work with samples that are 'high boilers'
- Have a higher than average split rate
- Throughput a high rate of samples

If you'd like to know more about preventive maintenance for your GC, you can download the [Agilent GC Maintenance Guide](#). Or [order that new split vent trap now](#).

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