

Crimped Cap Removal from Fused Insert Vials Without Damaging the Insert - Tech Information

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Removing a crimped cap from a vial containing a fused glass insert requires careful selection of the proper decapping tool. Using the wrong type of decapper can easily damage the insert, compromise the vial, or render the sample unusable.

The suitability of the decapper depends entirely on its design:

1. Downward-Pressure (Rod-Style) Decappers – *Not Recommended*

Decappers that operate by pushing a central rod downward onto the cap as the handles are squeezed should not be used on vials with fused inserts. This downward force transfers directly into the vial and can fracture or dislodge the insert. These tools are typically designed for general-purpose vial decapping, not for delicate insert-containing vials.

2. Side-Grip (Pliers-Style) Decappers – *Recommended*

A better option is a pliers-style decapper that grips the cap from the sides rather than applying vertical force. This type of tool, which looks more like a pair of pliers than a crimping device, gently grasps the aluminum cap and peels it away from the vial without contacting or stressing the insert.

This approach is effective for vials with both fused and non-fused inserts.

Note: *MICROSOLV does not sell side-grip decappers, but they are available from various laboratory tool suppliers.*

When handled properly with an appropriate side-grip tool, crimped caps can be safely removed while preserving the integrity of the fused insert and the vial itself.

AUTOSAMPLER
VIALS AND CAPS

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