

Sylgard Dishes

Sylgard is elastic, clear hydrophobic silicon polymer with low viscosity that cures with a smooth surface. It can be poured into any glass or plastic petri dishes, pans or other containers to harden with an excellent work surface for fine dissections. It provides good support for insect pins, minuten pins and does not dull or damage fine dissection tools. It can be modified into a black opaque material by addition of a small amount of powdered charcoal. It is important to place the container such that it is level and dust-free during curing to avoid a tilted surface in the final product.

Clean up.

Sylgard is very difficult to clean up. It will not dissolve with soap and water. Work over disposable bench paper and wipe up any spills with paper towels. Mixed Sylgard may be allowed to cure so it can be peeled from lab surfaces. Measure and mix Sylgard reagents with disposable items that are allowed to polymerize before discarding. The reagents are potentially toxic, especially the curing agent, and should be disposed accordingly. The cured Sylgard is considered to be inert and can be disposed in the regular trash.

Ordering.

Sylgard 184 Silicone Elastomer Kit

Dow Corning Corp., Midland, MI 48686-0994

(989)496-5900

<http://www.dowcorning.com/applications/search/products/Details.aspx?prod=01064291>

Recipe.

1. Mix 10 parts of Sylgard Base (big bottle) with 1 part of Sylgard Curing Agent (small bottle);
2. Pour into dish and set in a level, dust free location for 48 hours;
3. It will cure in a few hours in a 60° C oven, but air bubbles from the mixing may not have time to escape;
4. Mix in powdered charcoal to create black Sylgard:
EMD Millipore, catalog #CX0655-1