

Dry silica gel protocol (Molecular Tree Breeding Lab- NCSU)

- Preheat the oven at 180 – 200 C.
- Place a thin, single layer of green silica beads on a metal tray.
- Insert 2-3 trays in the oven (top, middle and bottom shelves).
- Let the trays into oven for 2-3 minutes (adjust time depending on silica color). Silica beads need to change from color green to light orange. Overdried beads will turn into dark orange/brown color and will lose absorption power.
- After ~ 2-3 minutes, remove the bottom tray from the oven.
- If you have multiple metal trays, move trays down and place one at the top. The trays at the bottom will dry faster.
- In a deep metal container, collect the silica beads to cool them down.
- Store silica beads in sealed containers to avoid reabsorption of water from the environment.



Left panel: Green silica beads before drying. Right panel: silica gel beads after drying.