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Deep Cleaning Bacteria Incubator [↗](#)

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Works for me

[dx.doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.ba2tigen](https://doi.org/10.17504/protocols.io.ba2tigen)



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ABSTRACT

This protocol details how to deep-clean the bacteria incubator (Fisher Scientific Isotemp 637F). This cleaning should be performed at least every 4 months during regular usage, more frequently under heavy usage. Full Owner's Manual is attached to this protocol as a link (I do not claim any credit in the development of that document; it is for reference only)

EXTERNAL LINK

https://www.marshallscientific.com//v/vspfiles/files/manuals/Fisher_Scientific_Isotemp600_Oven-manual.pdf

GUIDELINES

Gloves must be worn at all times.
Do not use bleach on stainless steel.

MATERIALS TEXT

- VersaClean Laboratory Cleaner solution (Concentration of 30:1 in warm water)
- 70% Ethanol Solution (EtOH)
- Sponge
- Screwdriver
- Waste beaker

SAFETY WARNINGS

Do not turn incubator back on or close door until the interior is completely dry -- 24 hours.

Disassemble

- 1 Before beginning any work on the incubator, turn off the power using the switch at the bottom.

- 2 Remove incubator door:
 - Loosen the screws on the inside of the hinges (hold the door so it doesn't fall when released).
 - Slide door out of the hinges by pulling outward.
 - The hinge on the top will fall out when the door is removed, or come off with the door.
 - Each hinge has a small plastic bushing the goes between the hinge and the incubator; do not lose these bushings.
 - Set aside for now on lab bench.



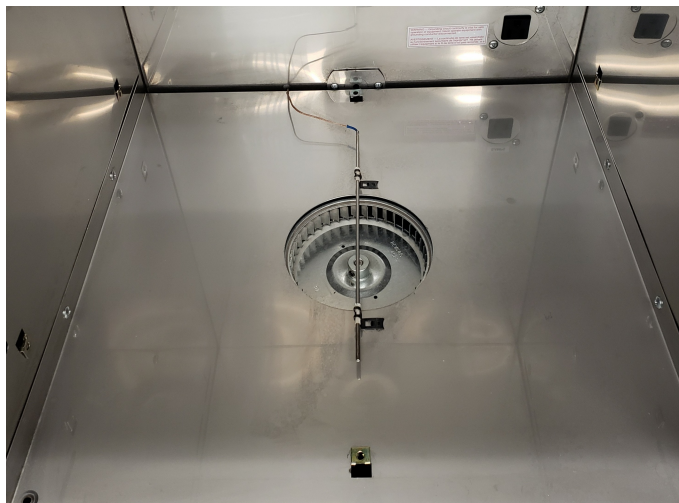
You can see the white bushing directly on top of the right of the hinge.

- 3 Remove rack shelving by pulling straight outward. Set aside for now on lab bench.
- 4 Remove the shelf holders:
 - Make note of the placement of each shelf at this time.
 - Each horizontal shelf holder can be removed by lifting up, rotating the bottom up/out, then sliding the top downward and out.
 - Set aside for now on lab bench.



- 5 Remove vertical mounts:
 - Make note of the orientation of the mounts at this time.
 - Remove the screws holding the mount in place; 2 screws per mount.
 - Set aside for now on lab bench.

- 6 Remove the bottom tray:
 - Undo the 2 screws holding the tray in place.
 - Lift the tray straight up to remove (this may be assisted by inserting a small curved metal pick into the holes to help lift the back end up).
 - Set aside for now on lab bench.

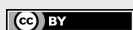


Wash

- 7 Using a sponge, wash all interior surfaces of the incubator with VersaClean solution (or other laboratory cleaner - do not use bleach on stainless steel).
 - My recommendation is to dip the sponge in cleaner, and scrub one surface (e.g. the top) with VersaClean, then wring sponge into a waste container and rewipe surface. This should leave the surfaces only slightly damp, not wet.
 - Work from the top-down: top, sides, then bottom last.
 - Avoid the mechanical moving parts on the bottom, or be cautious in washing them.
- 8 Spray all interior surfaces with EtOH and wipe with paper towels, but avoid directly spraying the mechanical moving parts on the bottom.
- 9 Using a sponge with VersaClean, wash the door and all interior parts including the rack mounts, racks, and shelf holders. Spray with EtOH to disinfect just prior to reinstalling.

Reassemble

- 10 Reassemble the incubator by reversing the disassembly instructions.
- 11 Allow the incubator to completely dry before closing door or powering on, especially since ethanol vapor is flammable!



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