

Going Waterless - A Major Step Towards Lab Sustainability

The CondenSyn waterless condenser

from Asynt has been widely adopted by the Technicians Sustainability Working Group (TSWG) operating within the Biomolecular Science and Medicinal Chemistry Division at Nottingham University (UK) as part of their drive to make teaching and research greener.



Nottingham University Campus

Drawing upon their pivotal role at the forefront of laboratory work, the TSWG was formed by lab technicians from across all Nottingham University campuses. The aim of the committed members of the TSWG has been to lead green initiatives and share best sustainable practices and ideas to make the university greener and more sustainable. These initiatives have ranged from automatic recycling of 'dirty' solvents, running -80°C freezers at -70°C and installing CondenSyn waterless condensers across the laboratories in the Schools of Pharmacy and Chemistry. Currently the TSWG at Nottingham University is in talks with several other UK universities to help them set up similar sustainability working groups.

Lee Hibbett,

a founder member of the TSWG and senior research support technician in the School of Pharmacy, said "Water condensers have been used in our scientific labs for decades for refluxing reactions at elevated temperature and preventing evaporation of the solvent. This is done by passing water through a jacketed glass column, cooling the vapour back into a liquid. The cooling water used in this process just ends up down the sink! Waterless condensers work by allowing air to flow over a large glass surface area, removing any heat and essentially doing the same job as the water coolant. With a typical reflux reaction running for 16 hours we calculated a single water condenser to use 20-litres of water per hour equating to a waste of 320 litres of water

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per reaction. Scaling this by our 37 scientists doing 2 reactions per week this equates to a saving of 1,231,360 litres of water in a year by adopting the CondenSyn waterless condensers. Consequently, I looked into what waterless condensers were available on the market and the CondenSyn from Asynt fitted our needs the best. They were easier to use, lightweight, economically priced and backed by the team at Asynt who have always provided a knowledgeable and responsive support".

Manufactured in the UK,

Asynt offers a range of CondenSyn waterless condensers to optimally suit varying reaction scales. Offering clear visibility of ongoing experimental reflux, the CondenSyn is very easy to clean and maintain. The incorporation of a novel anti-roll feature helps prevent the CondenSyn rolling off laboratory surfaces. Not only has the CondenSyn proved itself a sustainable alternative for reflux reactions, it can also be adapted for distillation experiments using the CondenSyn Distillation glassware. A typical laboratory, replacing standard water condensers with CondenSyn air cooled condensers, can expect to see a return on its investment in as little as 6 months.

For further information

on CondenSyn please visit <https://www.asynt.com/products/condensyn-air-condensers/> or contact Asynt on +44-1638-781709 / enquiries@asynt.com.

The Biomolecular Science and Medicinal Chemistry Division at Nottingham University

are internationally recognised for their pioneering research in biomedical sciences, aimed at understanding biological processes, and applied research in the areas of target identification, bioassay development and drug discovery. The division has considerable expertise in molecular and cell biology, synthetic medicinal and computational chemistry, structural biology and bioscience.

For further information

please visit <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/pharmacy/research/biomolecular-science-and-medicinal-chemistry/index.aspx>. For further information on the TSWG please contact lee.hibbett@nottingham.ac.uk

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is a leading supplier of affordable products, consumables and services for chemists in industry and academia. With staff of trained chemists - Asynt can draw upon this in-depth applications knowledge to provide a high level of customer support for its DrySyn Heating Blocks, Controlled Lab Reactors, Synthesis Tools, Evaporators, Circulators, Temperature Control Systems, Vacuum Pumps and Lab Safety Equipment.

Images: A: Lee Hibbett, University of Nottingham, UK ; B: CondenSyn waterless air condenser from Asynt

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