

Safe-T-Vue® 6 FAQs

Q: At what temperature should the blood or blood products be kept prior to attaching Safe-T-Vue®?

Blood temperature should be as cold as possible— temperatures between 1.0° C and 4.0°C are recommended. A low start temperature is critical if the blood and blood products are to be delivered within the compliance temperature. Placing a cold pack under the bag helps to maintain the temperature of the blood during the dispensing process. Keep multiple cold packs in the blood refrigerator to assure the cold pack temperature is the same as the blood bag.

Q: Does the temperature of the room have any effect on Safe-T-Vue®?

Yes. Ambient temperature can have an effect on heat transfer. Cooler ambient temperatures decelerate the warming rate of blood bags once they are removed from the refrigerator, while warmer ambient temperatures accelerate warming.

Q: Moisture sometimes condenses on cold blood bags after they are removed from the blood refrigerator. Do I need to remove it before applying a Safe-T- Vue® to the bag?

Remove excess moisture by using a dry wipe on the surface just before Safe-T-Vue® is applied.

Q: Do busy blood refrigerators affect blood temperature?

Yes. The air temperature in a blood refrigerator can increase 3-4°C when the door is open for 30 seconds, which can affect the temperature of the refrigerated blood.

Q: What are the protocols for packing blood products that are being sent to the OR and/or transported to another location?

When packing with wet ice or reusable cold packs, follow the packing instructions provided with your validated shipping container.

Q: How can I be certain our blood bags maintain uniform temperature in our refrigerator?

Uniform temperature of all blood bags in any given refrigerator depends on the recovery rate and air circulation of the refrigerator. You can improve temperature consistency by storing blood bags in a vertical position with air space around them. Bags lying on top of each other can impede airflow, and may need longer to reach refrigerator temperature because they have less surface area exposed to the cold air.



Video Instructions



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Instructions & FAQs

Safe-T-Vue® 6

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Storage:

- Safe-T-Vue® 6 must be **refrigerated at the same temperature as the blood for a minimum of 24 hours prior to use.** It is suggested that boxes of Safe-T-Vue® indicators be kept in the blood bank refrigerator.
- Safe-T-Vue® inventory may be stored or shipped at room temperature.
- Safe-T-Vue® 6 may be kept in the blood bank refrigerator for up to 2 months. After 2 months, remove Safe-T-Vue® 6 from the refrigerator for 24-48 hours, and then return to the blood bank refrigerator. This cycling may be repeated every 2 months.
- Write the date placed in the refrigerator and the date to remove from the refrigerator in the space provided on the box.

Safe-T-Vue® 6 Instructions

Preparation

- Refrigerate Safe-T-Vue® for a minimum of 24 hours before activating.
- Use a **refrigerated cold pack** beneath blood products to keep them cold while dispensing (recommended).

Handling

- Hold the Safe-T-Vue® indicator by the outer edges.
- Do not hold or touch the temperature sensitive indicator areas, as your hands can pre-warm the indicator and affect its accuracy.

Application

1. Apply the Safe-T-Vue® indicator to the blood bag:
 - When the blood is requisitioned and dispensed from the blood bank, OR
 - When the blood is received into your blood bank inventory
2. Remove the adhesive backing and apply Safe-T-Vue® to the area of the blood bag with the largest blood volume.
3. Be careful not to touch the center indicator areas.
4. **(Optional)** Some users may achieve more consistent results and prevent false positives by returning the blood bag to the refrigerator with Safe-T-Vue® attached for up to 15 minutes BEFORE activating.

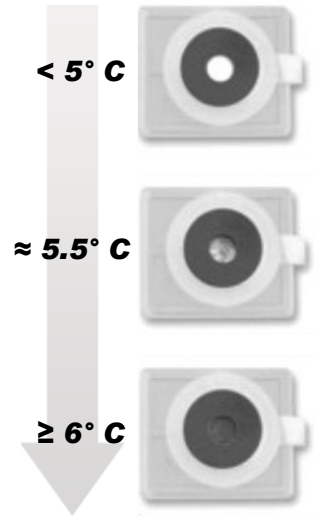


Activation

1. It is preferable to activate Safe-T-Vue® in the blood refrigerator.
2. Pull back the foil to expose the indicator's active areas. Again, be careful not to touch the center indicator areas.
3. Activate the indicator by folding the rounds together and snap shut.
4. The blood is ready for transport to destination, or can be placed back into the refrigerator until needed.

Color Change Temperature Indication

- The white dot will begin to gradually fill in with red dots at approximately 5°C.
- The appearance of small red dots (typically starting around 5°C) is an indication that the blood should be cooled or re-refrigerated immediately, before 6°C has been reached.
- The temperature-sensitive dot on Safe-T-Vue® 6 will turn from white to completely red when the blood product temperature reaches 6°C.
- Extensive testing has shown that the color change from white to completely red should be clear and unambiguous if Safe-T-Vue® has been handled properly.









Validation

A detailed **Validation Protocol**, is available for download in MSWord format at www.williamlabs.com/support. Many factors such as ambient temperature, bag size, indicator handling, and air flow can influence the results of your validation testing. To account for these variables, the validation protocol can be edited and modified to meet the requirements of your facility. Once validated, you may continue to use the indicators according to your validated procedure. Contact customer service at 973-630-6050 for support.

Recommended equipment and processes:

- An electronic thermometer and thermister probes ($\pm 0.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ stated accuracy) placed inside simulated blood bags are recommended for validation of Safe-T-Vue[®] 6. Avoid surface measurement such as infrared thermometers ($\pm 1.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ typical stated accuracy) or glass thermometers with contact only on the surface of the bag.
- Simulated blood products may be prepared using the appropriate volume of water with glycerol- see www.williamlabs.com for simulated blood product recipes.

Symbols Glossary: Refer to ISO 15223-1 Standard

Symbol	Meaning	Symbol	Meaning
	Manufacturer		Caution: Consult the Instructions
	Do not re-use		Use By Date
	Catalogue or Part Number		Batch Code