

mediterranea™ Sea₁₈ New Generation HPLC Column **Tk**

Purity of Silica

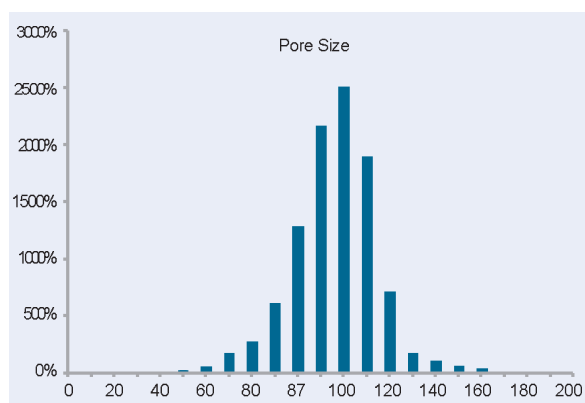
After evaluating many materials as a base for the global-best reverse phase chromatographic packing, the clear consensus is that the special characteristics of silica packings classify them as unsurpassable. No other packing material, apart from ultra-pure silica, achieves the perfect balance of physical resistance, functional use, chemical inertness, reproducibility and efficiency. Ultra-pure silica is also compatible with practically all solvents. Teknokroma concentrated on presenting the best silica particle to the HPLC market.

An essential condition for obtaining the global-best reverse phase packing is an extremely pure silica. The silica particle, on which the new mediterranea™ sea18 packing is based, is obtained from ultra-pure materials, using rigorously controlled manufacturing processes to ensure that the slightest possibility of contamination is avoided. The mediterranea™ sea18 silica required intensive optimisation of numerous processing factors to achieve a perfectly spherical, rigid and inert particle possessing unusually low metal content. The almost total absence of metals is one of the pillars over which the extraordinary properties of the mediterranea™ sea18 column reside.

Metals Content (ppm)

Metal	Values Obtained
Al	<1ppm
Fe	<1ppm
Ti	<1ppm
Zr	<1ppm

Porosity (Surface Enhanced Accessibility, SEA)



The pore distribution of the mediterranea™ sea18 column has been optimised by our own proprietary process called Surface Enhanced Accessibility (Sea). The Surface Enhanced Accessibility “porification” process creates high surface area without losing silica structural strength, chemical resistance, chemical inertness and high load capacity. Surface Enhanced Accessibility also ensures that practically 100% of the internal packing surface has been chemically bonded, endcapped, and is accessible to compounds being separated. Moreover, the Surface Enhanced Accessibility of mediterranea™ sea18 ensures the maximum transfer speed of the solutes between the stationary and mobile phases, resulting in a greater separation efficiency.

More than 98% of the silica surface area responsible for chromatographic separation of the sample is found inside the particle - within the pores. This explains the extreme importance of obtaining a very homogeneous pore distribution and the least possible number of nanopores. For most reverse-phase silica packings, these nanopores are not properly chemically bonded, endcapped or deactivated. So when nanopores are accessible to analytes, surface-analyte interactions frequently dominate. These surface-analyte interactions slow down the chromatographic process (“load transfer”), often resulting in decreased column efficiency. These treacherous nanopores may also negatively influence the phenomenon of dewetting which occurs with totally aqueous mobile phases.

Multifunctional Endcapping Deactivation (MED)

The endcapping process is a critical step in obtaining a perfectly deactivated mediterranea™ sea18 column. Our proprietary Multifunctional Endcapping Deactivation (MED) technology maximizes surface-bonding, blocking practically all the active centres that may have remained on the surface of the silica after bonding the C18 chains. Thanks to our new MED technology, the mediterranea™ sea18 column enjoys an unusual low level of silanol activity - helping you to obtain symmetrical peaks from even the most basic and acidic pharmaceuticals and their metabolites. mediterranea™ sea18 bonding chemistries will help you to achieve an extraordinary resistance and column lifetime when running at extreme pH levels.

Moreover, the mediterranea™ sea18 column has been designed to show an excellent retention of polar compounds in a 100% aqueous environment without the problems of unwanted interactions which inefficiently endcapped conventional packings produce. Packing chemistry based on the new MED technology, “multifunctional endcapping deactivated”, achieves levels of deactivation, resistance to extreme pH values and versatility in its chromatographic applications never reached by conventional or polar-embedded reverse phase packings. The MED technology has been rigorously developed to achieve the maximum reproducibility, with the objective that its chromatographic separations will be, column to column, exactly the same.

The obtained deactivation is shown when we make chromatograms of a group of Basic compounds in neutral pH conditions, including a neutral compound (acenaphthene) as a comparison. Of the four tested columns, the mediterranea™ sea18 is the one that shows the greatest efficiency, whether measuring with the acenaphthene or with a peak as difficult as that of amitriptyline. The same occurs if we compare the asymmetry values of the peaks.

Column	As	Ncol	As	Ncol
	Acenaphthene	Acenaphthene	Amitriptyline	Amitriptyline
mediterranea™ sea18 5 µm 15 x 0,46	1,06	11031	1,21	8119
Xterra MSC18 5 µm 15 x 0,39	1,36	6476	1,32	4619
Gemini C18 5 µm 15 x 0,46	1,22	9524	1,23	7490
Nucleosil 100 C18 5 µm 15 x 0,46	1,07	7815	na	na