

- Column Materials

Both fused silica and stainless steel MXT columns offer a high degree of inertness and excellent flexibility. While the two column materials can service many of the same needs, the advent of MXT columns has expanded the utility of capillary columns. They are resistant to abrasion and scratches and show little risk of spontaneous breakage at any GC operating temperature. They can also be coiled into a smaller diameter to fit into portable field equipment. Under harsh operating conditions, stainless steel XT columns are the best choice. When breakage is less of a concern (stationary bench top equipment) and it is advantageous to be able to identify non-volatile contamination inside the column, fused silica is the best choice. Fused silica is also much more amenable to the addition of a guard column using a press-tight connector.

