



## General Information

### Restek Surface Treatments

Restek passivation and surface protection layers are deposited using a chemical vapor deposition (CVD) process in which the item to be treated is heated under vacuum in a large oven. Our current capacity enables us to treat items up to 6 feet long, or continuous lengths of coiled tubing exceeding 2000 feet (600 meters). Items that can be evacuated, such as gas chambers, can have a volume of up to 3.5 cubic feet.

When the item has been heated to the appropriate temperature, the reacting gases that form the protective surface are introduced, depositing a durable, amorphous layer that grows and overlays itself multiple times. The reaction layer penetrates into the lattice of the treated piece and binds solidly. Consequently, it is possible to work a piece, such as bending a length of treated tubing, without creating cracks, flakes, or other flaws in the layer. By controlling the variables in the process, we control the layer type and thickness. Layer thickness ranges from 0.03 $\mu$ m to 30 $\mu$ m, controlled to our specifications.

**As strong as steel, as inert as glass.**

Restek's surface treatments are:

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <u>Silcosteel®</u>     | A general-purpose passivation layer for steel and stainless steel. U.S. patent 6,511,760.  |
| <u>Siltek®</u>         | The ultimate passivation for treated components, from glass to high nickel alloys of steel. U.S. patent 6,444,326.   |
| <u>Sulfinert®</u>      | A required treatment for metal components when analyzing for parts-per-billion levels of organo-sulfur compounds. U.S. patent 6,444,326.   |
| <u>Silcosteel®-AC</u>  | Dramatically reduces carbon buildup on stainless steel components. U.S. patent 6,444,326.  |
| <u>Silcosteel®-CR</u>  | A corrosion resistant layer that increases the lifetime of system components in acidic environments containing hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, sulfuric acid, or seawater. Patent pending. |
| <u>Silcosteel®-UHV</u> | Greatly reduces outgassing from components of ultra-high vacuum systems. Patent pending.   |

### Surface Passivation

#### Surface Treatments

General Information

Silcosteel®

Siltek®

Sulfinert®

Silcosteel®-AC

Silcosteel®-CR

Silcosteel®-UHV

Placing & Tracking  
Orders



# Restek Performance Coatings

## Silcosteel® Surface Treatment

### General Purpose Inert Layer

Silcosteel® is an effective, general-use passivation treatment that meets the needs of many analysts, for tubing, fittings, valves, and other system components that require passivation.

**A general-purpose  
passivation layer for  
steel and stainless steel.**

If you're storing, transferring, or analyzing relatively inactive compounds such as hydrocarbons, or working with parts-per-million levels of active molecules (e.g.,

sulfur compounds), Silcosteel® treated glass, stainless steel, steel or high performance alloy system components will assure you of the inertness you need. Silcosteel® treatment does not, however, offer ultimate inertness often required in chromatography systems, sample storage vessels, process pathways, or similar applications. For ultimate inertness, we recommend Siltek® surface treatment.

Examples of Silcosteel®-treated systems and components include: Silchrome™ Saturn Ion Traps for Varian GC-MS systems, cylinders for sampling sulfur gases at parts-per-million levels, and tubing/fittings used in flow-through systems with short residence times.



### Custom Products

[Custom Treatment Request Form](#)

### Stock Products

[Fittings](#)  
[Tubing](#)



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### Surface Treatments

General Information

Silcosteel®

Siltek®

Sulfinert®

Silcosteel®-AC

Silcosteel®-CR

Silcosteel®-UHV

Placing & Tracking  
Orders



# Restek Performance Coatings

## Siltek® Surface Treatment

### Ultimate Surface Inertness

Siltek® is our most chemically inert surface. It is prepared through the same process as Sulfinert® treatment, and pricing is equal, but, for emphasis, we use the Sulfinert® name to describe our inert surface specifically intended for sampling, storing, transferring, or analyzing parts-per-billion levels of active sulfur compounds (e.g., hydrogen sulfide). One of the more popular applications for Siltek® treatment is the passivation of inlet liners for gas chromatography, and the many GC applications performed using Siltek®-treated liners are a testament to the inertness of this surface.

**The ultimate passivation  
for treated components,  
from glass to high  
nickel alloys of steel.**

If you're storing, transferring, or analyzing parts-per-billion levels of active sulfur compounds, chlorinated pesticides (especially endrin and/or 4,4'-DDT), semivolatile compounds, or other

chemically active molecules, we recommend you request Siltek® treatment for your glass, stainless steel, steel, or high performance alloy system components.

Examples of Siltek®-treated systems and components include inlet seals for injection systems in gas chromatographs, and inlet liners for GC analysis of chlorinated pesticides.



### Custom Products

[Custom Treatment Request Form](#)

### Stock Products

[Fittings](#)  
[Tubing](#)



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# Restek Performance Coatings

## Surface Treatments

General Information

Silcosteel®

Siltek®

Sulfinert®

Silcosteel® -AC

Silcosteel® -CR

Silcosteel® -UHV

Placing & Tracking  
Orders

## Sulfinert® Surface Treatment

Inertness to Sulfur Compounds

Because they contribute to air pollution and are known catalyst poisons, sulfur compounds are increasingly being targeted for monitoring to extremely low levels in air and in ethylene/propylene. Strict limits for sulfur content in gasoline and diesel fuel are to be achieved by 2007.

Many key organo-sulfur compounds are adsorbed to or react with steel or stainless steel surfaces. To address this issue Restek developed the Sulfinert® surface treatment process. Sulfinert® treatment eliminates interaction between organo-sulfur compounds and steel. The figures

Prevent surface interactions with reactive organo-sulfur compounds at parts-per-billion levels.

demonstrate the benefit of using Sulfinert®-treated components for sampling and storing organo-sulfur compounds

Refineries and petrochemical plants use Sulfinert®-treated components for sampling, and for transferring

sample streams. Natural gas and liquid propane gas manufacturers and transfer companies rely on Sulfinert®-treated systems to accurately quantify sulfur-containing odorants in natural and liquid propane gas streams. Sulfinert®-treated sampling equipment is specified in International Society of Beverage Technologists methods for determining sulfur impurities in beverage grade carbon dioxide. (ISBT procedure 1.0)

A wide variety of Sulfinert®-treated items are available from stock, including tubing, fittings, sample cylinders, valves and sampling components. If you have other requirements, please see [Custom Coating Services](#).

### The Ideal Substrate for Holding and Transferring Reactive Sulfur Compounds

Sulfinert®-treated sample vessel outperforms electropolished stainless steel under dry and humid sampling conditions.



## Custom Products

[Custom Treatment Request Form](#)

## Stock Products

[Fittings](#)

[Tubing](#)

[Sample Loops](#)

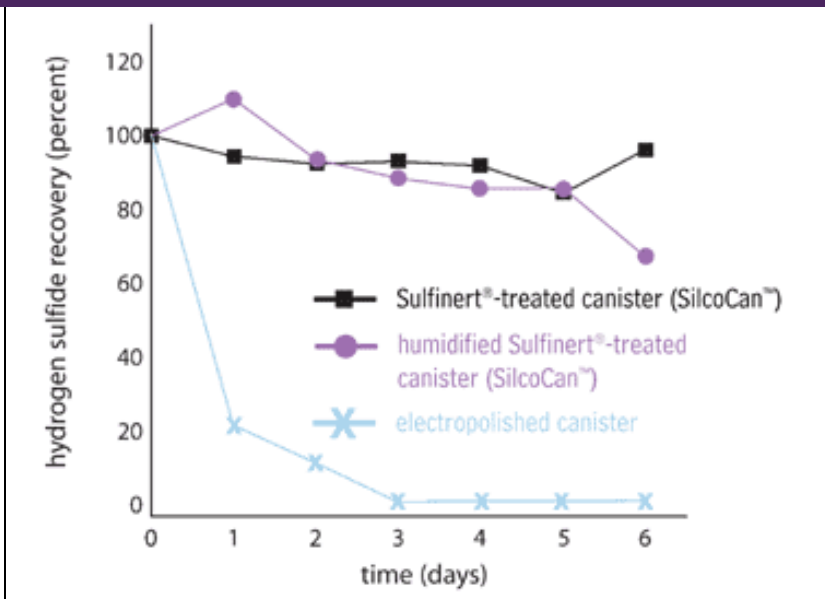
[Sample Cylinders &](#)

[Valves](#)

## Articles

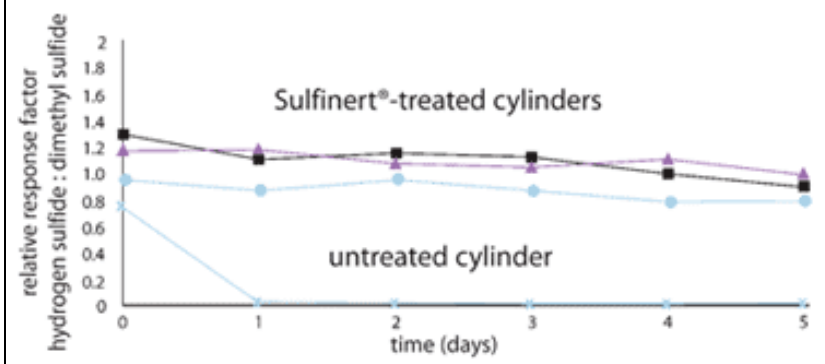
[Sulfinert® Treated Systems Preserve ppb Levels of Active Sulfur Compounds](#)

## Free Literature



### Excellent Long-Term Stability of Sulfur Compounds

Sulfinert®-treated sample cylinders show good recovery of sulfur compounds at 17ppbv. Untreated cylinders exhibit complete loss within 1 day.



**Introducing Sulfinert® Coatings**  
 Lit. Cat.# 59203-INT  
 Document Type:  
 Product Flyer  
[Download](#) (438k PDF)

**Sulfinert™-Treated Sample Cylinders**  
 Lit. Cat.# 59618A  
 Document Type:  
 Product Flyer  
[Download](#) (101k PDF)

**Use of Sulfinert™ Sample Cylinders Increases Holding Time for the Analysis of Sulfur Compounds**  
 Lit. Cat.# 59164A  
 Document Type:  
 Applications Note  
[Download](#) (73k PDF)



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# Restek Performance Coatings

## Silcosteel®-AC Surface Treatment

### Coking Control

A major problem in hydrocarbon processing systems is the buildup of carbon on the surface of steel or stainless steel components—coking. Coking often is initiated by catalytic action of nickel or carbon impurities or additives in the steel used to construct the processing system components.

Restek chemists are working in conjunction with the Fuel Science Program at the Pennsylvania State University to quantify the effects of Siltek® and Silcosteel® treatments on the formation of coke. (1) A Silcosteel®-treated system exhibits a 4-fold reduction in coke formation, compared to untreated stainless steel, but a modified Silcosteel® treatment, Silcosteel®-AC, can provide an 8-fold reduction. The Silcosteel®-AC or Silcosteel® layer forms a barrier between the hot hydrocarbon stream and the coking-susceptible steel substrate, and eliminates catalytic breakdown in the hydrocarbon stream. With the elimination of surface catalytic activity, carbon will not chemically adhere to the surface.

Current work indicates that the only mechanism of carbon formation in a Restek-treated system is the result of coking within the fluid phase. This material settles on the surface without adhering, and is easily removed by agitating the surface. Now, instead of "burning" out coke with oxygen at high temperatures, deposited carbon can simply be rinsed away.

Applications for Silcosteel®-AC coking control treatment include fuel injection nozzles, jet engine nozzles, engine valves, and engine cylinders.

**Silcosteel®-AC treatment eliminates the need for "burning out" hydrocarbon processing equipment.**

We continue to investigate other coatings specifically designed to reduce coking. The figures shown here illustrate the amount of coking occurring on various substrates and the table compares the performance of Silcosteel®-AC,

Silcosteel®, Sulfinert®, and prototype treatments. Silcosteel®-AC-treated 304 stainless steel shows dramatic reduction in coking vs. non-treated 304 stainless steel.

### Carbon Build-up Tests



### Custom Products

[Custom Treatment Request Form](#)

### References

(1) Altin, O.; Venkataraman, A.; Eser, S. *Analysis of Solid Deposits from Thermal Stressing of a JP-8 Fuel on Different Surfaces in a Flow Reactor* Symposium on Structure of Jet Fuel V, Division of Petroleum Chemistry, Inc., 216th National Meeting, ACS, August 23-27, 1998).

### Surface Treatments General Information

Silcosteel®

Siltek®

Sulfinert®

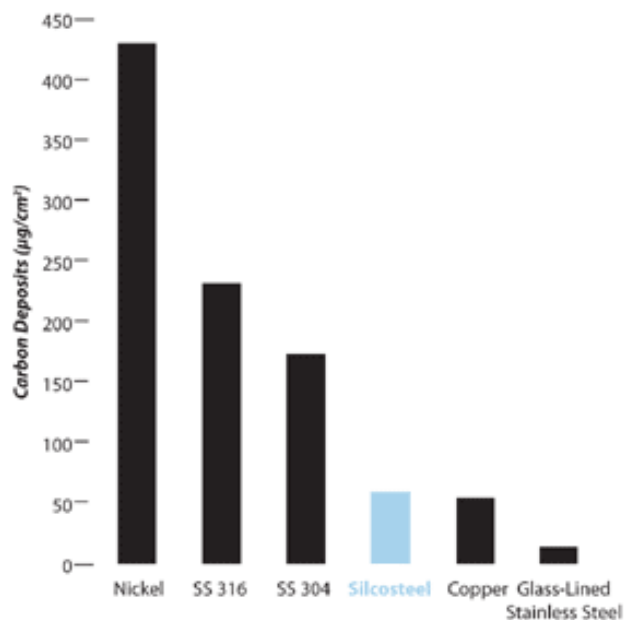
Silcosteel®-AC

Silcosteel®-CR

Silcosteel®-UHV

Placing & Tracking  
Orders

Carbon deposit from JP-8 fuel on various types of tubing (500° C, 500psi, 1cc/min. flow rate).



Silcosteel®-AC-treated 304 grade stainless steel components exhibit the greatest reduction in coking.

Surface	Carbon Buildup (µg/cm <sup>2</sup> )
Silcosteel®	15.4
Sulfinert®	11.9
Prototype B	7.8
Silcosteel®-AC	7.4

Silcosteel®-AC prevents catalytic formation of metal sulfides and filamentous carbon deposits. (JP-8 fuel stressed at 500°C, 500psi, for 5 hours.)



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# Restek Performance Coatings

## Silcosteel®-CR Surface Treatment

### Corrosion Control

Corrosion currently costs the United States economy \$276 billion per year (1) and costs the world economy even more. In acidic environments it is critical to engineer solutions to account for the depreciation of equipment caused by corrosion. Current commercial solutions that address corrosion are specialized alloys, such as Inconel®, Monel® and Hastelloy®—or coatings.

We developed Silcosteel®-CR treatment to protect equipment exposed to hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, sulfuric acid, or marine environments. Silcosteel®-CR treatment upgrades the corrosion resistance of 300-grade stainless steels by an order of magnitude.

**Silcosteel®-CR,  
an effective, durable  
solution at lower cost  
than specialty alloys.**

An advantage of Silcosteel®-CR treatment over super-alloy solutions is cost. Many of the high nickel super-alloys, such as Inconel®, Monel® and Hastelloy® are expensive and machining costs are higher for these soft materials than for 300-grade stainless steels.

Silcosteel®-CR treatment also offers major advantages over traditional coatings. Our chemical vapor deposition process incorporates the treatment into the stainless steel lattice. Traditional overlay coatings rely primarily on primers or surface tension to remain in contact. The Silcosteel®-CR process eliminates delamination, a common problem with overlay coatings.

**Silcosteel®-CR  
treatment protects  
equipment exposed  
to hydrochloric acid,  
nitric acid, sulfuric acid,  
or marine environments.**

A Silcosteel®-CR layer is both durable and flexible. The layer builds from many starting points on the steel surface. Repeated overlaying as the deposition grows on the surface creates a dense, impenetrable layer. This layering process also creates flexibility—

treated components can be worked into place without cracking, chipping, or otherwise damaging the layer.

A selection of Silcosteel®-CR treated fittings and tubing are available from stock. For custom treatment, refer to [Custom Coating Services](#).



### Custom Products

[Custom Treatment Request Form](#)

### Stock Products

[Fittings](#)  
[Tubing](#)

### Articles

[Improve Corrosion Resistance of Stainless Steel Tenfold, or More](#)

### Free Literature

**Silcosteel®-CR**  
Lit. Cat.# 59956  
Document Type: Fast Facts  
[Download](#) (254k PDF)

### References

(1) *Corrosion Costs and Preventive Strategies in the United States U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, Publication No. FHWA-RD-01-156.*

### Pitting and Crevice Corrosion Tests

In studies of exposure to 6% w/w ferric chloride, Silcosteel®-CR treated 316L stainless steel outperformed untreated 316L steel by a factor of 10. This test was conducted per ASTM G48, Method B.



### 4000 Hour Salt Spray Tests

Silcosteel®-CR treated 316L stainless steel coupons show no sign of attack after 4000-hour salt spray exposure, per ASTM B117.



### Condensing Humidity Tests

Silcosteel®-CR treated 316L steel withstands environments simulating outdoor exposure, per ASTM D 4585.

### Cyclic Polarization Electrochemical Tests

Electrochemical corrosion testing of Silcosteel®-CR treated 316L stainless steel yielded the following corrosion and pitting potentials in neutral and acidic conditions, per ASTM G61.

Breakdown or pitting potential, Eb, in millivolts.		
Neutral Solution	Silcosteel®-CR	Bare Steel
100ppm chloride	>3000	674
3000ppm chloride	1460	370
5000ppm chloride	1590	285
Acidic Solution (1N H2SO4)		
100ppm chloride	1128	580
3000ppm chloride	927	370
5000ppm chloride	983	563

Corrosion of Silcosteel®-CR treated 316L stainless steel versus bare stainless steel at 3000ppm Cl- concentration.

<b>Neutral Solution</b>	<b>Silcosteel®-CR</b>	<b>Bare Steel</b>	<b>Improvement</b>
Corrosion Rate, mpy	0.0009	0.04	45X
Breakdown Potential, Eb	1460	370	
<b>Acidic Solution (1N H2SO4)</b>			
Corrosion Rate, mpy	0.05	0.83	17X
3000ppm chloride	927	370	



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# Restek Performance Coatings

## Silcosteel®-UHV Surface Treatment

Ultra-High Vacuum



R&D Magazine recognized Silcosteel®-UHV as one of the 100 most technologically significant products introduced in 2003.

Ultra-high vacuum (UHV) environments are critical for many analytical instruments and particle accelerators used to analyze the properties of materials and atoms. UHV systems are characterized as requiring a vacuum of  $10^{-9}$  torr or better. At this level of vacuum even steel components outgas large quantities of moisture. Massive pumping systems are needed to remove molecules as they are generated.

We developed Silcosteel®-UHV treatment specifically to significantly reduce outgassing by steel components in UHV systems. A Silcosteel®-UHV layer over the steel surface is a barrier that keeps moisture isolated from the

**Dramatically  
reduce outgassing  
and pump-down time.**

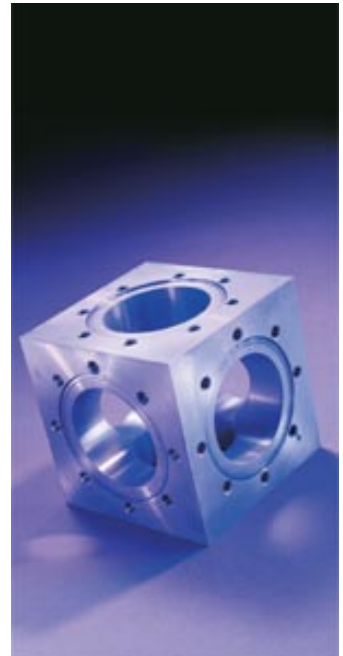
UHV environment. The Silcosteel®-UHV layer does not liberate any atmosphere of its own. The figures below demonstrate the superior evacuation profile sustained by using Silcosteel®-UHV-treated components vs. non-treated components in a UHV assembly. Clearly, Silcosteel®-UHV treatment makes it possible to maintain a UHV environment with less pumping capacity.

Further, when not under vacuum, the Silcosteel®-UHV surface is far less likely to accrue a coating of water and other airborne molecules than is a non-treated surface. This greatly reduces the length of time required to re-attain a UHV environment.

Silcosteel®-UHV treatment is available as a custom service. For information, refer to [Custom Coating Services](#).

### Significantly Reduce Pump-Down Time

Silcosteel®-UHV-treated vacuum system components show significantly less outgassing, compared to heat-cleaned components.



### Custom Products

[Custom Treatment Request Form](#)

### Features & Benefits

#### Maintain Seal Integrity

The durable Silcosteel®-UHV layer will withstand the sealing requirements of UHV, maintaining knife edge integrity.



### Surface Treatments

General Information

Silcosteel®

Siltek®

Sulfinert®

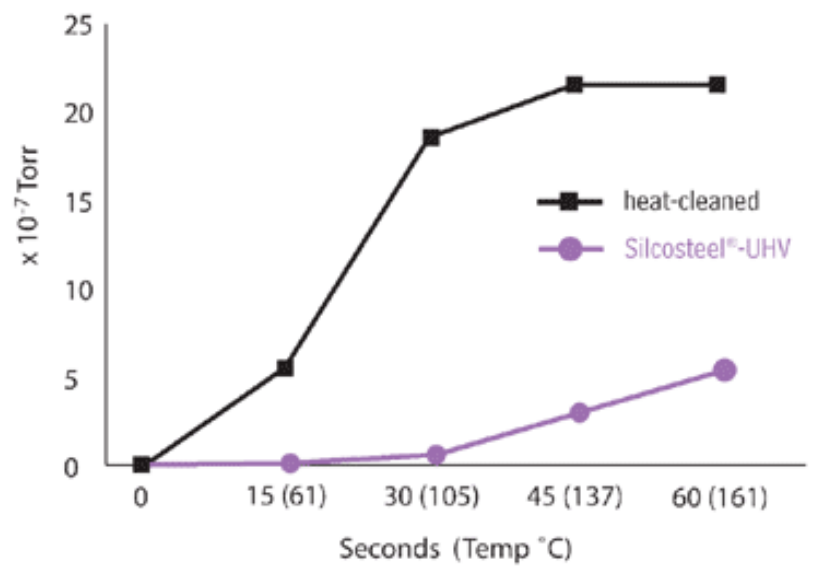
Silcosteel®-AC

Silcosteel®-CR

Silcosteel®-UHV

Placing & Tracking  
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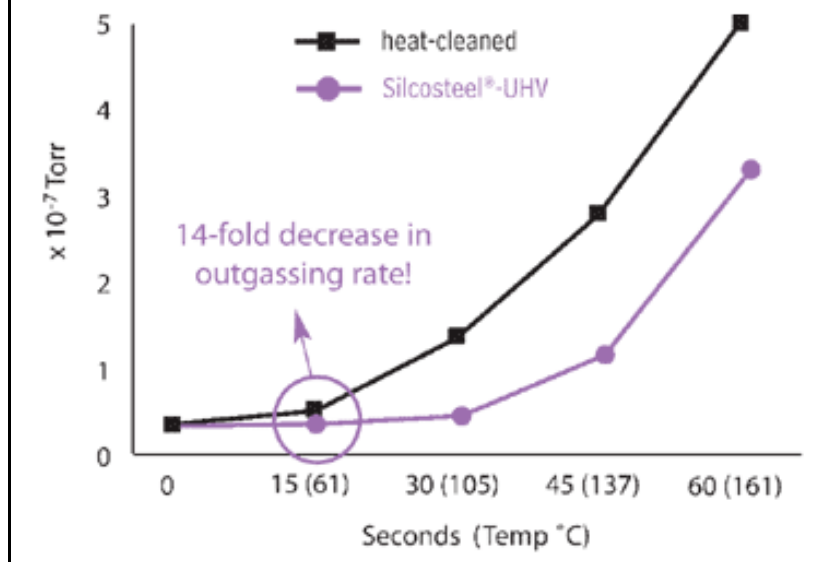
Pressure Increase with Heat After 1 hr Under Vacuum



**Significantly Reduce Outgassing**

After 10 hours under vacuum, Silcosteel®-UHV-treated components continue to show significantly less outgassing. Note change in y-axis scale compared to figure above.

Pressure Increase with Heat After 10 hr Under Vacuum



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# Restek Performance Coatings

## Custom Coating Services

[SUBMIT A QUOTE](#)

We will work with you to meet your surface treatment needs. Please contact us to discuss unique requirements.

### What can we treat?

- Parts that can tolerate a sustained temperature of 400°C, with pressurization/evacuation.
- Substrates: stainless steels, steels, steel alloys, high-performance nickel alloys, glass, ceramics
- Parts: fittings, valves, frits, custom parts with complex topography (inside and out) largest vessel: 1ft. ID x 4ft. cylinder w/ 10in. opening (30.5 x 122cm, 25.4cm opening)
- Tubing: 0.004in. to 0.5in. ID (0.10–12.7mm); continuous lengths to 2000+ ft. / 600+ meters\*

\*Please allow 6 inches of extra tubing on each end if the final tubing length is critical.

### What can't we treat?

- aluminum (heat-dependent), copper, brass, gold- or silver-plated components, magnesium, nickel (we can treat most high-performance alloys).
- elastomers.

### Process

1. **Receive:** Document receipt of items—first customer contact
2. **Clean:** standard: caustic ultrasonic bath, two systems; custom: as needed or requested
3. **Process:** silicon-based materials, chemical vapor deposition—vacuum, 400°C
4. **Clean:** standard: ultrasonic bath; custom: as needed or requested
5. **Ship:** document process—second customer contact—pack and ship

Quotations will be prepared and returned within 24 hours of our receipt.

If you accept our quote, contact Restek Corporation for an authorization number. This number is required for any package shipped to Restek. Any package received without an authorization number will be returned to the sender.

Turnaround time for most custom treated items is 10 days or less.

### 2-Touch™ Program

The Restek Performance Coatings Division has developed the 2-Touch™ Program to ensure that customers are kept up to date with progress of their parts during the treatment process. The first touch will be contact on receipt of your job, to discuss questions or anticipate concerns that could arise during processing, and to give you a completion date. The second touch will be at the completion of the treatment process, to



### Info & Support

FAQs

Care & Treatment

Bibliography & References

Free Technical Literature

Presentations & Papers

Electronic Subscriptions

Custom Coating Services

Site Map



notify you of the results and give you an option to update return shipment information.

Many of our current customers have found this service very helpful, and we will continue to adapt the 2-Touch™ Program to meet the needs of all customers.

Other highlights of the 2-Touch™ Program:

- Each job is tracked and recorded, using a unique lot number. Digital photos are taken of all items in each job at arrival and prior to return shipment. These records will be available to you, should you ever have need of them.
- Each item is individually packaged for maximum protection.
- Treatment certifications are supplied for each job.

[SUBMIT A QUOTE](#)

To print and fax a quote request please use the following downloadable PDF files:

[Custom Silcosteel® Worksheet](#)

[Custom Sulfinert® Worksheet](#)

Fax the completed form to Restek Corporation at 814-353-1309 or contact your local Restek representative.



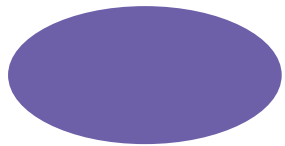
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## Custom Silcosteel® Treatment Request Form

Complete a copy of this worksheet for each type of item to be treated.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Restek Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Internal Use Only	
Date contacted:	_____
Date quoted:	_____
Quote number:	_____

This form only applies to custom Silcosteel® treatment. Please use the form on page 193 or call for custom Sulfinert™ treatment pricing and details.

Check box and fill in quantities of items to be quoted for Silcosteel® coating. Copy and fax back to 814-353-1309 or contact your local Restek representative. Delivery is twelve (12) working days from receipt of items, unless otherwise notified.

**Compression/pipe fittings**  
1/32"-1/4" (≤6mm)  
cat.# 57035-279

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

**Compression/pipe fittings**  
3/8"-1/2" (>6mm-13mm)  
cat.# 57288-279

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

**Pre-bent tubing sections, coated internally**  
≤1/4" (6mm) OD, length <18" (45cm)  
cat.# 57287-279

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

**Pre-bent tubing sections, coated internally**  
≤1/4" (6mm) OD, length 18" (45cm)-50" (127cm)  
cat.# 57286-279

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

**Tubing, coated internally**  
1/16, 3/16, 1/8, 1/4" OD (≤6mm)  
Minimum length: 50 ft. (15m)  
Coil diameter: <3 ft. (1m)  
cat.# 51541

- 50-499 ft.
- 500-999 ft.
- 1000+ ft.

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

**Tubing, coated internally**  
3/8" OD (10mm)  
Minimum length: 50 ft. (15m)  
Coil diameter: <3 ft. (1m)  
cat.# 51542

- 50-499 ft.
- 500-999 ft.
- 1000+ ft.

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

**Tubing, coated internally**  
1/2" OD (13mm)  
Minimum length: 50 ft. (15m)  
Coil diameter: <3 ft. (1m)  
cat.# 53392

- 1-999 ft.
- 1000+ ft.

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

**Straight tubing, coated internally and externally**  
<2" OD (50mm)  
Length: <10"  
cat.# 57285-279

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

Length: 10"-18"  
cat.# 57282-279

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

Length: 18"-60"  
cat.# 57284-279

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

**Valves (ball, plug, needle, or 1/4-turn), up to 1/4" fitting**  
Must be received disassembled  
cat.# 57022-279

- 1-9 qty.
- 10+ qty.

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

**Sample loops, coated internally**  
cat.# 57289-279

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

**Sample cylinders, ≤500cc internal volume**  
cat.# 54044

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

**Sample cylinders, 1000cc internal volume**  
cat.# 57036-279

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

**Dip tubes for sample cylinders**  
cat.# 54852

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

**Sample cylinder pressure relief valves, up to 1/4" fittings**  
Must be received disassembled  
cat.# 57290-279

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

**Varian Injection Ports**  
cat.# 54045

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

**Regulators**  
(includes regulator body, internal wetted parts, CGA fitting, and diaphragm)\*  
Must be received disassembled  
cat.# 57291-279

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

**In-line filters with stainless steel frits, up to 1/4" fitting**  
Must be received disassembled  
cat.# 57292-279

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

**Item not listed\*\***  
**Description:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

For other custom Silcosteel® pricing, please call us!  
For pricing outside the U.S., please call your local Restek representative.

**Disclaimer**  
Customer acknowledges that the extreme heat needed to Silcosteel®-treat any product may cause damage to the product. Customer waives any claim for damages to their product as a result of Restek's handling of the product and, specifically, waives any claims for damages caused by the heating process.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Please initial for agreement.

\*Not liable for warping of stainless regulators due to process heat.

\*\*A dimensional drawing or scaled photograph and quantity to be coated must accompany this sheet for quotation to be issued.





# Restek Performance Coatings

## Info & Support

### Recommended Care of Treatment Layers

Since 1987, the Restek Performance Coatings Team has been offering leading edge passivation and barrier coating technology to the scientific, analytical, and process markets. You may have questions regarding the appearance, performance, and maintenance of the treated surface. Here are a few tips to keep your treated products working at peak performance.

### Appearance

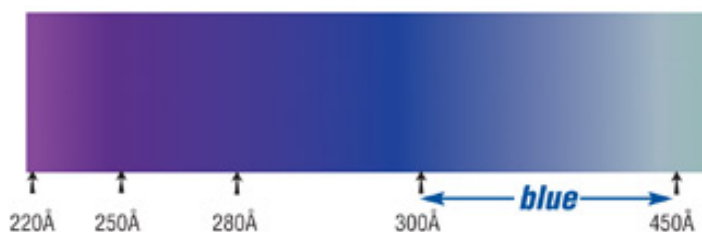
Layer appearance and surface finish can vary from lot to lot. Small variations in surface thickness (measured in angstroms) can impact layer appearance. The surface finish should be bright and free of defects, but original surface condition can have a major impact on final surface quality.

Your parts are cleaned after treatment; however, the surface may contain some trace silicon (black particles) as a byproduct of the treatment process. Residual silicon can be removed by rinsing with a solvent or by sonication in water.

General thickness ranges are:

Product	Coating thickness	Color
Silcosteel®	300Å–350Å	Blue
Siltek®, Sulfinert®, Silcosteel®-AC	1200Å–2500Å	Rainbow
Silcosteel®-CR, Silcosteel®-UHV	5+ $\mu\text{m}$	Gray

Colors associated with layer thickness are:



Thick depositions used in our Silcosteel®-CR and Silcosteel®-UHV processes are 5 $\mu\text{m}$  to 20 $\mu\text{m}$  deep and have a silver/metallic grey appearance. The photos below show colors created by Sulfinert® (left) and Silcosteel®-CR (right) deposition.



Rainbow  
minimum 1200Å  
(0.12 $\mu\text{m}$ )



Gray  
minimum 5 $\mu\text{m}$

### Cleaning

When cleaning a treated part, rinse with a solvent compatible with the contaminants you intend to remove (i.e., use nonpolar solvents with hydrocarbon surface contaminants, more polar solvents with more active contaminants). Do not use basic solutions with

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pH>8.

Avoid using cleaners containing abrasives as they can scratch the layer. Mild sonication may assist in contaminant removal, but do not oversonicate—this could damage the layer.

Avoid steam cleaning of components and lines as this can damage the layer.

### Galling

As with any threaded fitting, galling may occur when assembling two treated parts. To prevent thread damage, use a thread lubricant or Teflon® tape. Galling potentially can be reduced when assembling a treated part and an untreated part.

### Troubleshooting

Under normal use, your treated items should deliver outstanding performance for years to come. However, effective lifetime is dependent on the severity of the environment. Factors that can impede performance are:

Contamination	Failure to properly clean the surface can allow increased surface activity. If performance changes, thoroughly clean the surface and inspect the layer for damage.
Erosion	Contact with abrasives can accelerate surface wear.
Bases	Contact with a base (pH 8 or higher) can accelerate deterioration of the layer.
Surface finish	Surface finish and color should stay consistent throughout the life of the product. Changes in the finish or color may indicate a partial loss of the layer. To prevent further loss, ensure no exposure to bases or abrasives.

For additional information about Restek Performance Coatings [e-mail us](#), or contact our technical service department at 800-356-1688.

### Restek Surface Treatment Processes

Restek passivation and surface protection layers are deposited using a chemical vapor deposition (CVD) process. In the process, the item to be treated is heated under vacuum in a large convection oven. Our current capacity enables us to treat items up to 6 feet in length. Evacuated items, such as gas chambers, can have a volume of up to 3.5 cubic feet.

When the item has been heated to the appropriate temperature, the reacting gases that form the protective surface are introduced, depositing a durable, amorphous layer that grows and overlays itself multiple times. By controlling the variables in the process, we control the layer type and thickness. Layer thickness ranges from 0.03µm to 20µm.

The reaction layer penetrates into the lattice of the treated piece and binds solidly. Consequently, it is possible to work a piece, such as bending a length of treated tubing, without creating cracks, flakes, or other flaws which would compromise the layer.

Restek surface treatment processes do not rely on line-of-sight deposition. The chemical vapor deposition process ensures all surfaces are treated uniformly—even at corners, holes, and machined ridges.

### About Us

Restek's involvement with surface coatings began in 1987, when we developed a treatment that made stainless steel surfaces inert to low-level reactive organic compounds. Since this initial project, Restek's coatings experts have developed a family of surface treatments to address other specific needs and thereby enhance the performance of system components. These treatments are:

- [Silcosteel®](#)
- [Silcosteel®-CR](#)
- [Silcosteel®-UHV](#)
- [Silcosteel®-AC](#)
- [Siltek®](#)
- [Sulfinert®](#)

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