Emulseo's new hydrophobic surface treatment: Fluo-ST3

DESCRIPTION

Fluo-ST3 is a fluorophilic/hydrophobic surface treatment composed of a fluoroalkylsilane dissolved in a perfluorinated polyether solvent. Fluo-ST3 is a clear solution with low viscosity and low interfacial tension. After treatment, a uniform layer is covalently attached to the treated surfaces, making the walls of the microfluidic channels both hydrophobic and fluorophilic. This treatment allows a better generation and stability of droplets in fluorinated oils. Fluo-ST3 is especially adapted for use with Emulseo's surfactants and oils.

1 . BENEFITS OF FLUO-ST3

Material compatibility

including glass, PDMS, COC, PMMA, PC and Flexdym

Easy-to-use

no plasma pre-treatment or post-treatment heating required

Droplet performance

and stability improvement

2. COMPARISON WITH OTHER EMULSEO'S SURFACE TREATMENT

Surface treatment	Compatibility	Shelf Life	Stability after treatment	Protocol benefits	Performance	Hazard symbol
Fluo-ST1	Glass / PDMS	4 months	12 months	/	++	
Fluo-ST2	Glass / PDMS / COC / PMMA / PC / Flexdym	6 months	12 months	/	+	No
Fluo-ST3	Glass / PDMS / COC / PMMA / PC / Flexdym	12 months	12 months	No post-treatment heating	++	No

3. STORAGE CONDITIONS

The surface treatment Fluo-ST3 can be stored at room temperature in the supplied vial for one year without loss of performance.
After treatment, the chip can be stored at room temperature for one year without loss of performance.

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4. PERFORMANCES ON DIFFERENT MATERIALS

Experimental conditions

Surface treatment's protocol with Fuo-ST3:

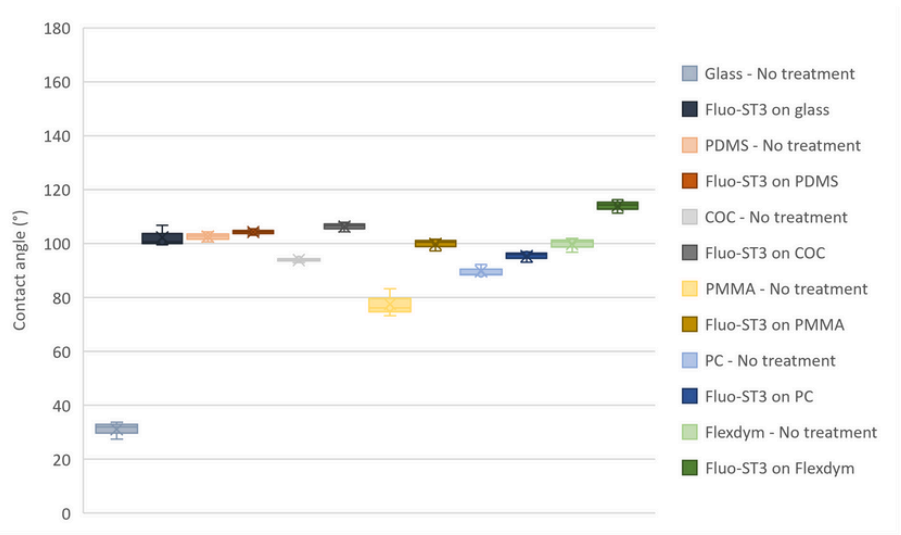
- Clean the surface with isopropanol.
- Cover the surface with Fluo-ST3.
- Remove the excess.
- Leave for 30 s and flush with argon.
- Rince the surface with a fluorinated oil and flush with argon.

Contact angle measurement:

- Drop a 5 µL droplet on the surface.
- Take a photo and analyze the contact angles via the ImageJ software.
- Carry out the measurements in triplicate for each material tested.

Results

The following graph shows the contact angle measurements obtained, before and after treatment with Fluo-ST3, on different materials (glass, PDMS, COC, PMMA, PC, Flexdym).



Fluo-ST3 surface treatment increases the hydrophobicity whatever the material tested.

To learn more about surfactants and other formulation products for droplet-based microfluidics, please visit www.emulseo.com

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