

Are Lab Armor's Bead Baths compatible with water?

Yes. All of our Bead Bath duo products (SKU# 41850) are fully compatible with water. You can use it as a bead bath or water bath. Should you have an application with a strict SOP, all you'll need to do is replace the beads with water. Of course, we can't think of any reason to keep an open bath filled with warm, contamination-prone water in the lab, but ... we are sure there are some. Really, we understand that sometimes a water bath is just more familiar to you. So the Bead Bath duo is an ideal instrument. You'll get the highest quality bath instrument, backed by a manufacturer that has been an industry leader for over 30 years. And it is supplied with Bath Armor Beads, but costs the same as any Fisher or VWR brand water bath. You get the best of both worlds. Really.

Why should I spend money on buying Beads?

When you compare the cost of a lost set of experiments or even a few contaminated tubes of reagents and factor in the additional time spent on refilling the water bath, cleaning the water bath, and other expenses such as racks and bottleneck weights that you have to buy to go along with it, the difference in price between owning a Bead Bath and a water bath clearly favors the Bead Bath. And because the dry metal Beads do not evaporate, and will not corrode the bath, and will protect the bath from burnout, a Bead Bath makes good financial sense. Finally, if you own a bath full of Bath Armor Beads, you'll own the most cutting-edge laboratory bath on the planet. So you're getting the latest technological advances, and a bath that protects you, your work, and your lab.

Can Lab Armor Beads be used to fill any constant temperature water bath?

Just about... beads are fully compatible with nearly all standard six inch-deep laboratory water baths. There are a handful of shallow baths (<3" deep) and deep baths (>10" deep), however, that are not as compatible. This is usually due to the design and location of the thermocouple, which has been optimized for the evaporation and warming capacity of water. Lab Armor has evaluated the most popular, recent model water baths, including instruments from Fisher Scientific, Thermo, VWR, and Shel Lab.

What if my bath is designed differently than some of the more popular baths?

In some baths, you may notice an exposed thermocouple (thermostat) or heating element in the tub of your bath. An exposed thermocouple does not affect the performance of the Bead Bath. The exposed heating element is fine too, except for baths where the heating element is not centrally located. If your bath's heating element is off to one side, then your bead bath might have a noticeable temperature gradient from one side of the bath to the other. Some baths have cover plates at the bottom. If your bath has a cover plate, please review this article for instructions on proper bead bath setup. If your bath is about six inches deep, in good working condition, and you haven't noticed any thermal performance problems with water, then beads should work for you.

Can Beads be used to fill a circulating or shaking water bath?

In general, if a bath has moving parts that interface with water, don't add Beads. However, if the bath can be operated effectively without the moving parts, and you can turn the parts off or remove them, then beads may be used.

