

## Is there a difference in chromatography performance between clear and amber RSA vials - FAQ

From a chromatographic standpoint, there is **no measurable difference** in performance between clear and amber RSA™ (Reduced Surface Activity) vials. Both vial types are manufactured using the same proprietary RSA™ process, which eliminates surface silanols and minimizes adsorption of basic analytes—ensuring consistent performance across vial types.

### Key Observations from QC and R&D Testing:

- Adsorption behavior: No significant difference in the adsorption of basic compounds between clear and amber RSA™ vials.
- pH stability: No observable variation in pH-related effects on sample diluents.
- Surface chemistry: Both vial types exhibit identical surface activity profiles due to the RSA™ manufacturing process.

### When to Choose Amber Glass:

Amber RSA™ vials are recommended for **light-sensitive analytes**, as the amber coloration provides protection against UV and visible light exposure. This is particularly important for compounds prone to photodegradation.

### Glass Composition:

- Clear RSA™ vials are manufactured from Type I, Class A 33 expansion borosilicate glass.
- Amber RSA™ vials are produced using N51A expansion borosilicate glass, which includes iron and other oxides to achieve light-blocking properties.

### Conclusion:

The choice between clear and amber RSA™ vials should be based on **sample light sensitivity**, not chromatographic performance. Both options deliver the same high level of surface inertness, dimensional precision, and LCMS compatibility expected from RSA™ technology.



Click [HERE](#) for ordering information and pictures of RSA glass

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**MicroSolv Technology Corporation**

9158 Industrial Blvd. NE, Leland, NC 28451

Tel: (732) 380-8900

Fax: (910) 769-9435

Email: [customers@mtc-usa.com](mailto:customers@mtc-usa.com)

Website: [www.mtc-usa.com](http://www.mtc-usa.com)