

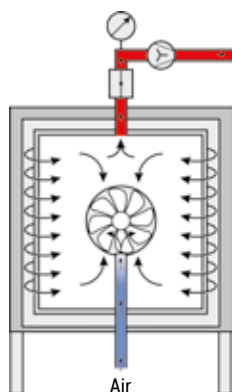
Safety Concepts for Processes which Generate a Combustible Atmosphere

During debinding e.g. from technical ceramics, hydrocarbons are released, which might generate an ignitable mixture depending on their concentration in the furnace chamber. Nabertherm offers tailor-made passive and active safety packages depending on the process and the amount of binder, which enable safe operation of the furnace.

I. Debinding in Air

Debinding in an Electrically Heated Furnace

For debinding in air with electric heating Nabertherm offers various debinding packages tailored to the individual process requirements. All debinding packages have professional integrated safety technology. Passive or active safety concepts are available, depending on the specific requirements. The passive safety concepts differ upon the requirements for the quantity of organic materials, process reliability, and temperature distribution.



Passive Safety Concept

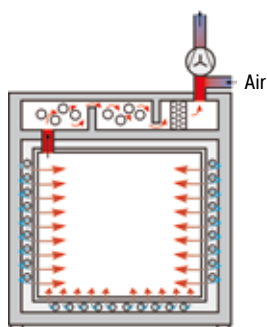
Nabertherm debinding furnaces are generally equipped with a passive safety concept to allow for a slow vaporization of flammable substances. The electrically heated furnaces work according to the dilution principle by introducing fresh air to reduce the degassing from the charge to a non-ignitable atmosphere in the furnace. The customer has to define the quantity of organic materials as well as the temperature curve, to make sure that the maximum permissible rate of vaporization is not exceeded. Thus, the customer is responsible for the function of the safety concept. The furnace DB safety package monitors all safety-relevant process parameters and initiates a respective emergency program in case of a malfunction. The passive safety concept has proven itself in practice based to its good price performance ratio. Depending on the process requirements, the following equipment packages are available.

DB10 Debinding Package for Air Circulation Furnaces (Convection Heating) up to 450 °C

The DB10 debinding package is the basic option for safe debinding in air circulation furnaces up to 450 °C. The furnace is equipped with an exhaust gas fan providing for a defined volume of air which is extracted from the furnace, thus allowing the volume of fresh air required for the debinding process to enter the furnace. The furnace is operated with negative pressure, which prevents an undefined emission of vaporization products.

Debinding Package for Laboratory Furnaces

The ashing furnaces have a passive safety system and integrated exhaust gas post combustion. An exhaust gas fan extracts flue gases from the furnace and simultaneously supplies fresh air to the furnace atmosphere with the result that sufficient oxygen is always available for the incineration process. The incoming air is guided behind the furnace heating and preheated to ensure good temperature uniformity. Exhaust gases are led from the furnace chamber to the integrated post combustion system, where they are postburned and catalytically cleaned. Directly after the incineration process (up to max. 600 °C) a subsequent process up to max. 1100 °C can take place.

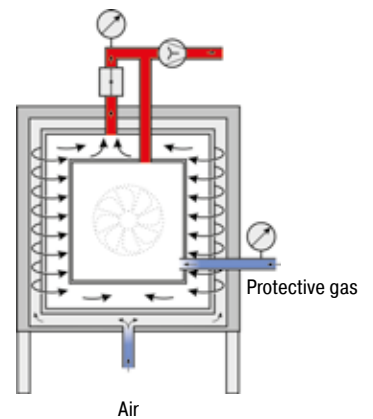


II. Safety Concept EN 1539 (NFPA 86) to Dry Liquid Solvents in Ovens

The safety technology of furnaces and dryers used for processes in which solvents or other flammable substances are released and vaporized relatively quickly is regulated throughout Europe in EN 1539 (or NFPA 86 in the USA)

Typical applications are drying of mold varnish, surface coatings, and impregnating resins. Users include the chemical industry as well as many other areas, such as the automotive, electric, plastic processing and metalworking industries.

The safety concept relates to preventing the formation of explosive mixtures through continuous air exchange in the entire vapor space.

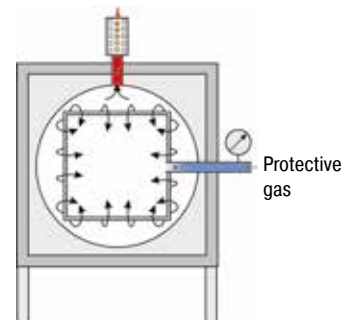


III. Debinding or Pyrolysis under Non-Flammable or Flammable Protective or Reaction Gases

IDB Safety Concept for Debinding in Protective Gas Boxes under Non-Flammable Protective Gases with Low Residual Oxygen

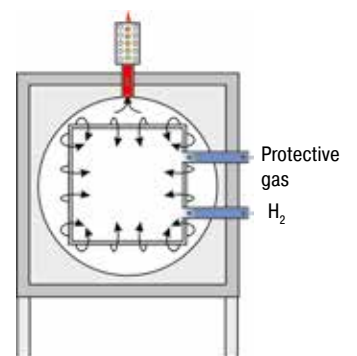
The IDB safety concept with an inert atmosphere in protective gas boxes is ideal for debinding processes under protective gas where a small amount of residual oxygen for the materials is permitted. The furnace technology in combination with a protective gas box made from heat-resistant stainless steel has a very good price performance ratio.

A monitored inert gas pre-flushing and conservation flushing during the process ensure that a residual oxygen concentration of 3 % is not exceeded in the protective gas box. The customer must check this limit value with regular measurements.



IDB Safety Concept in Retort Furnaces for Debinding under Non-Flammable Protective Gases or for Pyrolysis Processes

The retort furnaces in the NR(A) and SR(A) series are ideal for debinding under non-flammable protective gases or for pyrolysis processes. With the IDB option, the furnace chamber is flushed with protective gases. Exhaust gases are incinerated in an exhaust gas torch. The flushing and the torch function are monitored to ensure safe operation.



Safety Concept for Heat Treatment under Flammable Process Gases

If flammable process gases, such as hydrogen, are used, the retort furnace is also equipped and delivered with the required safety technology. Only components with the corresponding certification are used as safety-relevant sensors. The furnace is controlled by a failsafe PLC control system (S7300/safety control).

CDB Safety Package for Catalytic Debinding with Nitric Acid

The safety concept prevents explosive gas mixture forming when the furnace is operated with nitric acid. For this purpose, the gastight retort is automatically flushed with a controlled flow of nitrogen which displaces the atmospheric oxygen before nitric acid is introduced. During debinding, the monitored mixing ratio between the nitrogen and acid prevents an excess acid dosis and, or consequently, the formation of an explosive atmosphere.

