

Bi 1x: Safety

Overview

Relative to other types of labs, biology labs are generally very safe environments. However, there are some hazards—you will work with, among other things, bacterial cultures, carcinogens, flames, and lasers. Please abide by the common sense guidelines below to make the lab a safer place for yourself and for your classmates.

Generally, if you are ever in doubt of how to perform a task safely or how to dispose of something, **ask a TA!**

Safety guidelines

1. **On the fluorescent microscopes, NEVER look in the eyepieces while the fluorescence is on. This light is unfiltered and could damage your eyes. Use the camera view only. This is the number one safety hazard in Bi 1x.**
2. Know where emergency eye wash fountains and showers are, and know how to use them.
3. Know where the emergency exits are. In the event of an evacuation, we will meet on the grass near the corner of San Pasqual and Wilson.
4. Wash your hands before and (especially) after leaving the lab.
5. Attire:
 - (a) Do not wear sandals or open toed shoes (to protect yourself in the event of a chemical spill).
 - (b) Tie back long hair (to avoid exposing it to chemicals, cultures, or flames).
 - (c) Do not eat or drink in the lab.
6. Never pipette by mouth.
7. Always wear gloves when working with bacteria.
8. If you spill something, consult a TA about the best way to clean it up—simply wiping with a paper towel is not always sufficient.

Waste disposal

Safety extends to the environment as well, and we must be mindful of what we throw away or pour down the drain.

- Sharps (needles, razors) must be thrown away in a red sharps container regardless of what it came in contact with.

- Glass waste must be thrown away in the glass waste container regardless of what it came in contact with.
- Pipette tips, tubes, and other plasticware that have been exposed to living organisms (bacterial cultures, yeast cultures, etc) must be disposed of in biowaste containers.
- Gloves, Kimwipes, and paper towels go to the regular trash can regardless of what it came in contact with.
- Liquid cultures of any type cannot be poured down the drain without being sterilized (usually with bleach) first.