

## General Glassware Handling Procedures

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*Broken glassware causes more laboratory accidents than any other lab hazard. Because it is so fragile, glassware can easily fracture if it is bumped, dropped or too much pressure is applied to it. Always respect this property of glass components, and be prepared for any glass piece that you are working with to break without warning.*

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1. These interim procedures are in effect for all field and laboratory operations involving glassware use and handling until further advised.
  2. These procedures must be posted in all CleanAir laboratories, including temporary field laboratories. A copy must also be affixed to the inside lid of all glassware shipping containers (e.g., impinger cases, liner boxes).
  3. Wear approved eye protection at all times.
  4. Inspect all glassware prior to use. Do not use cracked, chipped or damaged glassware.
  5. Never attempt to force a piece of glass, serious injury may result.
  6. Use [cut-resistant gloves](#) whenever you are performing work that requires pushing, twisting or pulling on glassware components. Examples of these operations include insertion of impingers into transport case slots and insertion of glass liners into probe sheaths. All impinger and probe liner shipping containers must be packed with a pair of these gloves.
  7. Use [nitrile laboratory gloves](#) for all other laboratory glassware handling.
  8. When inserting a piece of glass into a rubber stopper or gasket, lubricate the glass first using water.
  9. Do not carry more than one piece of glassware in your hands at a time. Try to leave one hand completely free when carrying glassware.
  10. Maintain a neat lab area. Place all glassware in the center of your work space, not on the edge of the bench.
  11. All broken glassware must be cleaned up immediately using a dustpan and sweep. Do not pick up the glassware directly with your hands unless wearing cut-resistant gloves. Place the broken glassware in a rigid container designated and labeled for broken glass.
  12. Rinse all used glassware with water upon completion of the job prior to packing the glassware for transport.
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