

Pipette (Glass) Washing Procedure

Work over a sink area and wear large rubber gloves to protect yourself from any unknown nasty stuff that might be in the pipette holder water.

Remove the pipettes from the pipette holders.

Let the water drain from the pipettes.

Place as many pipettes as can fit, into the Pipette Basket.

Place the Pipette Basket inside the housing of the pipette washer.

Drop two ALCO TABS into the bottom of the pipette-housing unit.

Connect the small diameter tube attached the pipette washer to the flexible tygon tubing on the tap water. Since the flexible tygon tubing on the tap water faucet is rather long it may be easier to remove it and attach the short piece of tygon tubing that is connected to the dH₂O faucet.

Make sure that the large diameter flexible tube will drain the water into the sink.

Turn on the hot water.

Adjust the water flow rate to about 2 liters per minute. Run it at this flow rate for several cycles. The ALCO TABS will dissolve during these first few cycles washing the pipettes.

After several cycles, the flow rate may, if desired, be increase to about 12 liters per minute for rinsing. Continue to rinse with hot water for half an hour to an hour (25-60 cycles).

Ideally the flow rate should be such that after the pipette-washing unit fills with water, it completely drains before refilling. Usually this requires paying attention and adjusting the flow rate accordingly.

Disconnect the unit from the tap water faucet and connect it to the dH₂O faucet.

Rinse the pipettes for a minimum of 10 to 20 cycles.

At the conclusion of the dH₂O rinse, remove the Pipette Basket from the unit. Wearing gloves (this time to protect the pipettes from oils, RNases, etc. on your hands), transfer the pipettes into the pipette cans. Tips go toward the bottom of the pipette can. Place each pipette size in their own separate container; i.e., blue 5ml pipettes go together, red 10ml pipettes together and yellow 25 ml pipette go together.

Place the cans into the oven and bake at 220°C overnight baking sterilizes and destroys RNases whereas autoclaving only sterilizes.

Put pipette cans away into drawers (let pipettes cool before removing them from the oven).

Meanwhile rinse out the pipette holders that had the pipettes in them (wash them if necessary).

Fill the pipette holders with **dH₂O** to the black sharpie mark on the outside of the container.

Squirt a little detergent and a splash of bleach into the container and swirl with a pipette.

Glass pipettes should be fully immersed in the pipette holders, otherwise the crud dries onto them making them much more difficult to wash.