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Technical Information: Safety in the Laboratory

Laboratory Safety

- Safety glasses should be worn at all times in the laboratory.
- Do not wear contact lenses.
- Do not work in the laboratory alone.
- Know the location of safety equipment.
- Perform no unauthorized experiments.
- Use care in handling organic solvents. Avoid inhalation.
- Flames should be avoided in the laboratory. Replace Bunsen burners with appropriate electrical heating devices.
- Always review Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) before conducting experiments.
- Wastes generated in the laboratory must be properly handled and disposed of.

Glassware Safety

- Do not use laboratory vessels for food or drink.
- Do not use glassware when working with hydrofluoric acid, hot phosphoric, or strong hot alkalis.
- Do not use excessive force to tighten glassware to racks or ring stands. Use only coated clamps.
- Avoid direct metal to glass contact. Scratching the glass surface weakens it and failure can occur. Replace worn brushes and check dishwashers for exposed metal spindles.
- Use related safety equipment in the laboratory. Never grasp a beaker by the rim and use beaker tongs to remove same from hotplates or ovens.
- Identify and properly store reaction products and synthesized materials.
- Support round bottom flasks with cork rings and stopper openings whenever possible.
- Store glassware properly when not in use. Replace caps or stoppers on reagent bottles and cover open vessels, especially when working with volatile solvents.
- Avoid glass to glass contact when storing in laboratory bench drawers. Provide adequate space or cushion the glassware with appropriate material.
- When using pressure or vacuum check gauges first and provide a safety shield. LABGLASS does not guarantee any glassware when used under these conditions.
- Do not heat thick walled glassware such as filter flasks, cylinders, or battery jars on hot plates.