**APULU PRECIOUS ONDOKEYI**

**16/MHS06/009**

**CLEANING OF COMMON LAB GLASSWARE**

Some of the ways to clean popular laboratory glassware is given in this section.

**1. Slides and Cover Glass:**  Nothing can be more crucial than having microscope slides and cover glass for the preparation of blood films or bacteriologic smears that are perfectly clean and scratch free. Slides should first be washed, and then placed in solution containing glacial acetic acid for around 10 minutes. Afterwards the slides and cover glass are thoroughly rinsed with distilled water and then wiped perfectly dry using paper towels or clean cloth. As soon as this is done they should be placed in a wide jar containing alcohol. Whenever the slides are needed they are to be removed from the jar and then wiped dry. In case the slides are stored dry then they should be washed with alcohol prior to use.

**2. Pipettes :**  After the pipet is used they should be placed tips down, in a cylinder or a tall jar. The cylinder or the jar should be filled with water. Care should be taken as not to abruptly drop the pipettes into the jar. This action may result in breaking or chipping away of the tips and make the pipettes useless for anything. There is a way For preventing the break up of the tips. A pad of cotton or glass wool can be placed at the jar's bottom. The water level should be sufficient to immerse the pipettes completely or at least ¾ th portion. The pipettes are then afterwards drained and subsequently placed in a cylinder or jar. The jar consist of dissolved detergent. If the pipette is exceptionally dirty, then in place of detergent, chromic acid cleaning solution is used.  
  
After soaking overnight or for considerable time the pipettes are drained. Then under running tap water they are throughly washed till all dirt gets removed. Lastly the pipettes are soaked in distilled water for not less than 60 minutes. The pipettes are then removed, rinsed and wiped dry.  
  
**3. Test Tubes :** Test tubes if new should be filed up with the cleaning solution and put up in a wire basket. It should then be heated up for approximately 15 minutes in an autoclave. After removing from the autoclave they should be thoroughly rinsed using a brush under running water. Then the test tubes are also rinsed using distilled water and then drained. Sometimes alcohols are also used to facilitate drying before draining is done.   
  
**4. New Glassware :** Laboratory Glassware that is newly manufactured is slightly alkaline. This becomes a worrying factor in tests where high precision is required such as in trace analysis. To get rid of this problem, new glassware is first soaked for considerable hours in acid water prior to washing.