Lab Safety Topics

Pipette Safety

Do not ever use your mouth to pull the liquid into a pipette. This is the most common method of becoming poisoned in a chemical laboratory or becoming infected in a clinical laboratory. Mouth pipetting is a hazard which most Chemistry labs try to avoid.

Do not allow the solution to be drawn up into the bulb. Having solution in the bulb of the pipette will reduce the amount of suction in the pipette and ruin the mechanism.

Do not insert the pipette into the hole in the bulb. You might break the pipette and cut yourself while trying to insert it. Also, having the bulb attached to the pipette increases the risk of drawing the solution into the bulb.

The tip of the pipette is sharp and has the potential to puncture gloves and/or break the skin. Even if your skin is not punctured by the pipette tip, if your gloves break because they snagged on the pipette tip, there is the risk of getting chemicals on your hands.