

LAB SAFETY AWARENESS



Lab Housekeeping
Safe Science is Good Science

Caltech

Space is at a premium. Cut the clutter!

Good lab housekeeping reduces the number of accidents, minimizes risks & consequences of slips, trips, falls, exposure, unplanned reactions, and fire.

- Reducing clutter provides more space for critical research material, making it safer to move around the lab without tripping, or the potential for chemical/biological exposure.
- Limiting or reducing flammable materials (paper, cardboard) reduces the risk of fire.
- Never block emergency exits, fire extinguishers, safety showers, eyewashes, electrical panels or passageways.
- **Consider scheduling frequent lab clean-out days (at least quarterly).**
- Inspections help keep the lab space clean and pristine. Maintaining an [internal inspections program](#) improves the lab safety culture.
- Periodically thaw freezers.
- Make arrangements to service, maintain, or [remove broken equipment](#) or [laboratory waste](#).
- Keep a minimum of three feet of clearance (as required by fire codes) between benches and equipment.
- **Good housekeeping has obvious safety benefits and can lead to improved productivity.**