

Topic 7: Using a Pasteur Pipet

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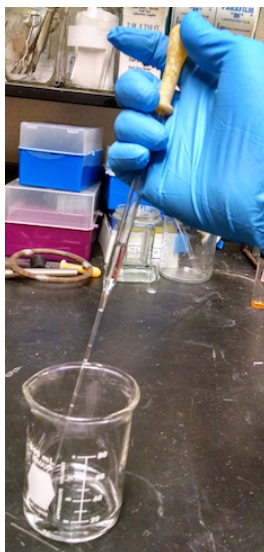
You may be familiar with the plastic Pasteur pipets (or transfer pipets) from general chemistry, but since these are only appropriate for transferring aqueous solutions, you will need to master the use of the glass pipet. Glass Pasteur pipets should be used when you are working with organic chemicals as some organic solvents may dissolve the plastic pipets.

How to use a glass pipet

1. ***Affix a bulb to the top.*** Insert the bulb no deeper than the top segment of the pipet. Either a latex or rubber bulb will work just fine.



2. ***Squeeze the bulb and then insert the tip of the pipet into the liquid you wish to transfer.*** Be sure to hold the pipet in an upright position.



3. ***Gently release the bulb to draw the liquid into the pipet.*** Do not draw liquid into the bulb or the top segment of the pipet. If you notice that the liquid squirts out of the bottom of the pipet, pull in and then expel the liquid several times.

4. **Transfer the pipet to the container you wish to transfer the liquid to and gently squeeze the bulb.** Again, be sure to hold the pipet upright at all times so that the liquid does not get into the bulb.

Are glass pipets reusable?

You can reuse a glass pipet when:

1. **You have used the pipet only for solvent.** Dry the pipet completely and then it is safe to use again.
2. **You are transferring the same liquid.** Keep it clean between uses by storing it upright in clean glassware (such as a beaker or Erlenmeyer flask).

If the pipet is broken or cannot be used again for any other reason, rinse any chemicals off (discard the rinse in the appropriate waste container) and then dispose of the pipet in the glass waste.