

CBE Lab Tips

How to clean a balance

Proper cleaning and maintenance of our analytical balances is important if you want them to retain their accuracy and precision. As you can see from the image below, although it appears there was an attempt to clean the surface, there is still ample residue on the balance.

Follow these tips:

- Use one of the small balance brushes to lightly sweep residue from the balance, to the counter, to the red trash.
- Moisten a light duty wipe (Kimwipe) with purified water to wipe remaining residue.
 - Avoid putting pressure on the pan. It is hard on the internal mechanism.
 - The pan can be carefully lifted off and wiped with water and Kimwipe for big messes.
- If there is residue under the balance itself, carefully slide it to the side and brush the residue into red trash. Follow with a squirt of water and a microfiber towel wipe.
 - Again, be careful not to squirt the balance directly...EVER!
 - Make sure leveling bubble is centered when put back in place. If you don't know how, ask.
 - Wipe the surrounding counter with water and microfiber cloth. Then hang cloth over the water bottle to dry.

Avoid:

- Ethanol: It makes a sticky mess when used for salts, media, or agar. Use purified water instead. We use ethanol for cleaning the spatula only, followed by a water rinse and tissue dry.
- Leaving salt on the balance: It causes corrosion and disrupts balance precision.

If you would like a more detailed demo, contact Ann Willis, CBE technical operations manager at ann.willis@biofilm.montana.edu or (406) 994-6086

