

Measuring Protocol for Using a Micropipette

Select the correct micropipette size for your measuring task and set the dial to your desired volume. Check the maximum volume of the micropipette and figure what each digit of the readout will indicate to verify that you know how to read the scale.

Push the pipette directly into the correct size tip. Do not touch the tip to avoid contamination. Always use a tip to avoid damaging the micropipette. Use a tip only once and then discard it. Tips are generally disposable. Follow these protocols when using a micropipette to measure:

1. Open the cap or lid of the tube from which you are taking liquid.
2. Hold the micropipette at a 45-degree angle from vertical. This keeps contaminants from your hands or the micropipette from falling into the tube.
3. Depress the plunger of the micropipette to the first stop and hold it in this position.
4. Place the tip in the solution to be measured. Draw fluid into the tip by *slowly* releasing the plunger. Close and return the tube to the storage rack or discard the container.
5. Using your other hand, open the cap or lid of the tube you are filling.
6. Gently touch the micropipette tip to the inside wall of the tube to create surface tension that helps to draw the fluid out of the tip.
7. Carefully press the plunger of the micropipette to the first stop and then to the second stop to expel all of the fluid. Hold the plunger in this position.
8. Remove the micropipette from the tube, keeping the plunger depressed to avoid drawing liquid back into the tip.
9. Press the ejector button to discard the micropipette tip into the appropriate waste container. Use a new tip for each reagent.