

LAB SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

Lab Housekeeping

Good lab housekeeping reduces the number of incidents and the risks and consequences of slips, trips, falls, unintended reactions and fires.

- General housekeeping issues are the number one finding during Tier 1 lab assessments.
- Reduce clutter to provide more space for critical research materials, making it safer to move around the lab. Avoid hoarding: lab space is always in limited supply.
- Reduce combustible materials like paper or cardboard to reduce fire risk.
- Never block emergency exits, fire extinguishers, safety showers, eyewashes or electrical panels.
- Schedule frequent lab clean-out days (at least monthly).
- Establish an internal inspection program on top of the Tier 1 assessments. Lab assessments help keep the lab space clean and pristine and improve the lab safety culture.
- Make arrangements to service, maintain or remove broken equipment. Thaw freezers periodically.
- More guidelines can be found in the following resources:
 - [Good Laboratory Housekeeping](#)
 - [Guidelines for Good Housekeeping and Labelling](#)