

# 8 Safety & Cleaning Tips for Glassware



## Safety

**1** Always examine your glassware for scratches or flaws, especially if it is subject to extreme temperatures, mechanical stress or vacuums. A scratch or a flaw creates a weak point that leads to breakage.

**2** Rapid heating or cooling glassware sets up stress. Avoid the risk of vessel failure by warming or cooling a vessel slowly. Especially avoid placing hot glassware on a cool surface or vice versa.

**3** To prevent beakers from cracking when heating solutions with a gas burner, use wire gauze with ceramic center to evenly spread the heat.

**4** When you set up a glass apparatus, remember that each clamp can become a stress point. Use coated or cushioned clamps. Make sure that you distribute the weight on glass evenly.

## Cleaning

**1** Clean glassware as soon as possible after use. If not cleaned immediately, residue and dirt will stick to glassware making it hard to remove.

**2** Always use a sink, pan, or jar as a soak vessel. You may need to soak the glassware for several hours if the dirt or residue is resistant. Use warm to hot water for the best results.

**3** Use a cleaning powder with a mild abrasive for hard to remove grease, dirt or residue. Test to ensure that abrasive does not scratch glass.

**4** While washing, ensure that you scrub the glassware completely. Therefore, you need multiple sets of brushes to fit different sizes of test tubes, funnels and flasks.