

# Balance Etiquette

**Always Keep the Balance and the Balance Table Clean. Brushes are Provided to Clean Up Spills. If Uncertain how to Clean the Balance, Consult your Laboratory Instructor**

## Use the Correct Balance

- Use a Top-Loading Balance if Crude Weights or Low Precision ( $\sim 0.01\text{g}$ ) are Required.
- Use a Top-Loading Balance if Weighing NaOH Pellets or Strong Acids.
- Use a Top-Loading Balance if Large Masses are to be Weighed.
- Use an Analytical Balance if High Precision ( $\sim 0.0001\text{g}$ ) is Required.

## Weighing with a Top-Loading Balance

- Turn on the Balance and Wait until the Display Stabilizes. Re-Zero if Needed.
- Place Object to be Weighed on the Pan (See Notes Below) and Wait until the Display Stabilizes. Record the Weight.
- If you wish to Tare your Weighing Container, place the Container on the Pan and Wait until the Display Stabilizes. Press the Tare Button. Allow the Display to Stabilize at 0.00g. Carefully add Material to the Container. Wait until the Display Stabilizes. Record the Weight.
- Remove the Object from the Balance and Gently Clean the Balance with the Brush Provided.
- Allow the Display to Stabilize. Re-Zero the Balance.

## Weighing with an Analytical Balance

- Sit on the Stool Provided. This will give you More Control as you use the Balance.
- Make sure the Balance Doors are Closed.
- Turn on the Balance and Wait until the Display Stabilizes. Re-Zero if Needed.
- Open the Balance Door. Carefully place the Object to be Weighed on the Balance Pan (See Notes Below). Close the Balance Door and Wait until the Display Stabilizes. Record the Weight.
- If you wish to Tare your Weighing Container, place the Container on the Pan, Close the Balance Door and Wait until the Display Stabilizes. Press the Tare Button. Allow the Display to Stabilize at 0.0000g. Open the Balance Door and Add Chemical in Small Increments until you are Close to the Desired Mass. Close the Balance Door, allow the Display to Stabilize and Record the Weight.
- Remove the Object from the Balance and allow the Display to Stabilize.
- Gently Clean the Balance Compartment with the Brush Provided.
- Close the Balance Door and allow the Display to Stabilize. Re-Zero the Balance.

### Do Not Ever .....

- Place Chemicals Directly on the Balance Pan. Always use Weighing Paper, a Weighing Boat, a Watch Glass, etc. on the Pan.
- Drop Objects onto the Balance Pan. Always Gently place Objects onto the Pan
- Place Hot Objects onto the Balance Pan. Objects should be at Room Temperature before attempting to Weigh Them.
- Exceed the Maximum Capacity of the Balance.
- Sit on the Balance Table.
- Move the Balance. The Balance must be Level in order to Function Properly.
- Vigorously Clean the Balance Pan. Always use the Brush Provided.

**Failure to Abide by the Above Guidelines will Result in your being Asked to Leave the Laboratory.**