

How to Care and Handle Your Dissection Kit

Tips to Help Prevent Rust

Many metals react with oxygen to form a new chemical compound such as rust.

To maximize the lifespan of dissection instruments, it is important to clean and store them using methods that will inhibit rust development.

Clean your dissection tools with disinfectant soap and warm water. Or, if you prefer, use wipes (Lysol, ethanol, acetone).

Make sure to dry thoroughly either with a cloth or paper towel.

If the kit is supplied in a box with rubber inserts, wash and dry them separately..

Always remove scalpel blades at the end of each dissection unit and carefully dispose of in a sharps container.

Drying instruments thoroughly is the single most important factor in preventing rust. —Dry as completely as possible using towels or paper towels. If it is possible, allow a fan to circulate the air around the tools until each object is dried thoroughly. —If a fan is not available, place instruments on a towel near a sunny window. Replace the towels when the items are turned over.

Inspect dissection tools on a routine basis. Dull and dirty scissors, scalpels or blades are much more dangerous than sharp, clean ones. Discard any instruments that are damaged and cannot be repaired.

Safety Precautions

Handle scalpels, dissection needles and other sharp instruments with care. Always cut away from the body and other people. Do not use excessive force when working with or cleaning sharp instruments. Always wear chemical splash goggles, chemical resistant gloves, and chemical resistant apron when working with preserved specimens. Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water before leaving the laboratory.