



Basic Microscopy: Cleaning the Microscope

When cleaning the microscope, start at the top of the microscope and work downward. Make certain to have the following supplies on hand before starting to clean the microscope. The routine cleaning supplies are commercial lens tissue, cotton swabs or other soft tissue, and commercially available lens cleaner or 70% alcohol. Also, a biohazardous waste and sharps container to dispose of contaminated material.

Clean the oculars by moistening the tip of a cotton swab or lens paper with lens cleaning solution. Working from inside to the outside, gently clean each eyepiece in a circular motion. With a clean piece of lens paper, use a circular motion to polish and remove any cotton fibers. You should perform the same cleaning procedure on all the objectives.

Using the stage controls, lower the stage to reach the lenses on the condenser diaphragm. Clean each lens with lens paper. Last, clean the stage with a suitable cleaner. This will help to prevent the dragging of a slide across the stage, if there is any oil on the stage.

Link to video job aid: <https://reach.cdc.gov/jobaid/basic-microscopy-cleaning-microscope>