

November 12, 2008

Ethidium Bromide (EtBr) is a known mutagen and a suspected carcinogen. It can be absorbed through the skin and any direct contact with it must be avoided. Please read MSDS before using.

- Wear gloves, safety goggles and lab coat when handling EtBr stained gels
- Note: Latex gloves offer little protection from ethidium bromide -- Nitrile gloves should be worn instead
- Avoid contaminating yourself, equipment and potentially all other users of SN3011
- When transporting a stained gel to the Gel Doc room please ensure you are not contaminating everything you touch along the way (doors, doorknobs etc)

Before leaving your lab:

- Transfer your stained gel to a secondary tray
- Carry it with a gloved hand (use a clean glove) to the Gel Doc room, opening doors etc with your other ungloved hand.
- Bring with you, a bag or receptacle to contain hazardous waste (i.e. paper towels) you will generate upon cleaning the transilluminator and holding tray.
- Bring multiple pairs of gloves with you.

Inside the Gel Doc room:

- Contain your stained gels in the holding tray provided, (when not inside the Gel Doc cabinet)
- Do not lay gels or containers on benches or equipment!
- Take measures to ensure you are not transferring EtBr to the computer, keyboard, printer, Gel Doc cabinet door etc, with contaminated gloves or hands.

- Wear CLEAN GLOVES when operating the computer
- Handle gels with gloved hands and change gloves often
- Do not touch anything else with gloves that have come in contact with the gel.

Once you have finished taking your pictures:

- Wipe all surfaces that your gel has contacted, with paper towel and water, then wipe dry. (Note that there can be a significant amount of dripping stain, or destain coming from your gels which may contaminate the holding tray, transilluminator etc.)
- Discard used paper towels, gloves etc. in your OWN hazardous waste receptacle and bring back to your lab to be disposed of appropriately.

Remember this is a shared facility and it is our responsibility to ensure a safe environment for ourselves, our students and for the next user.