

STUDENT TIPS:

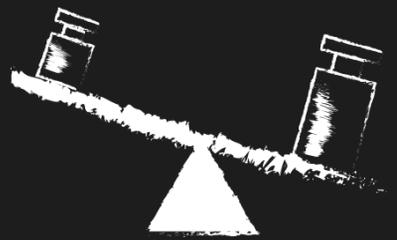
Using balances during class

**1****SETTING UP THE BALANCE CORRECTLY**

Place your balance on a flat, stable surface with as few environmental fluctuations as possible. Avoid exposing the balance to sunlight and other elements. Tare the balance when nothing is being weighed. Calibrate if necessary.

2**CHECKING PERFORMANCE LEVELS**

Don't start recording results for your lab right away; be sure to use a test weight to ensure the balance is stable and giving reliable results. You don't want to realize the balance is off in the middle of your measurements.

3**DON'T OVERLOAD THE BALANCE**

Whether you're using a mechanical or digital balance, overloading the balance can damage the internal components. If your balance doesn't have a capacity tracker on the display, make sure to find out how much it can hold prior to weighing.

4**ALWAYS TARE YOUR CONTAINERS**

When using a container for weighing your samples, make sure to always tare their weight before putting your samples in. If done incorrectly, it can lead to errors.

5**HANDLE THE SAMPLES CAREFULLY**

Try not to put your samples directly on the pan, especially corrosive chemicals, and follow correct handling for the samples as directed by the manufacture / supplier of the materials.

6**USE THE DRAFT SHIELD IF APPLICABLE**

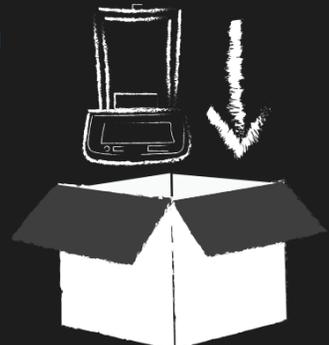
If applicable, for more precise results place the samples inside the weighing chamber and close the draft shield during weighing. Use the draft shield to prevent air currents from affecting your results.

7**RECORD THE RESULTS**

Some balances and scales have accessories to allow you to record results to a printer or computer. When collecting the data, make sure you adhere to the standards used in your science class or lab.

8**BE CAREFUL DURING CLEANING**

Power off the balance and use a damp cloth or a soft tissue with a mild cleaner. Avoid acetone and cloths that leave residue. Clean gently but thoroughly. Do not apply too much pressure, to avoid damaging the weighing mechanism.

9**STORE THE BALANCE CAREFULLY**

Even when the balance is turned off, it can still be overloaded and damaged. Put it somewhere away from direct sunlight, heat or ventilation sources. Make sure it's also away from dust or liquids. The weighing pan shouldn't have anything on it.