

Dave's glassware cleaning suggestions
6/6/2001

Contact angle and interfacial tension sample glassware need to be cleaned rigorously in order to obtain reproducible experimental results. It will save time and frustration if you collect the glassware you need, wash it thoroughly, and keep it in your own storage area so you know its chemical exposure history. DON'T assume that glassware you take off the shelf from the lab is clean.

Beakers and volumetric flasks:

1. Rinse with toluene on inside and out, and let dry under the fume hood.
2. Scrub with soap and rinse copiously with tap water like you would dishes at home.
3. Rinse with alcohol (isopropyl, ethyl, or methyl).
4. Rinse with DI water.
5. Rinse with 0.1 M HCl.
6. Rinse with 0.1 M NaOH.
7. Rinse with DI water.
8. Invert and allow to air dry.

Quartz cell, Gilmont microsyringe, Teflon parts: Soap is an aggressive surface-active agent by design. I prefer not to expose the quartz cell to soap, as it can directly contaminate your experiment.

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