

Adapted from this site: <https://user.eng.umd.edu/~choi/Hygiene/BaseBath-cleaning-solution.pdf>

Caution: The chemicals used in this cleaning procedure are hazardous and used in relatively large quantities compared to most lab operations. Always wear goggles (face shield optional on top of goggles), rubber gloves, lab coat (apron optional).

Purpose: the base bath is used to clean glassware of most chemicals. It is not for long-term exposure to ground glass labware or volumetric glassware. Polymers should be cleaned from the glassware using a good solvent prior to base bath treatment.

1. Decide whether to refresh the base bath: if it's deeply brown, it's time.
2. Put on gloves (thick, chemically resistant ones optional), rubber apron, eye protection ( face shield optional)
3. Use the large plastic container (~5 gallon). Leave it in its secondary container (tub).
4. Add 200-300g of solid KOH pellets (sometimes NaOH is substituted)
5. Add 4 L of ethanol (sometimes methanol or isopropyl alcohol is substituted)
6. Carefully add 1L of deionized water
7. Replace lid to plastic container.
8. Ensure label identifying the material as caustic base bath is legible.