



Microtome Safety Guidelines

Environmental Health and Radiation Safety

At the University of Toledo, research labs and Pathology often use microtomes to section tissues. These devices pose risks to users during sectioning and cleaning of the instrument. The tissues being sectioned can present an opportunity for the individual to be exposed to infectious disease. All microtomes are made differently, and labs must offer specific training on the exact piece of equipment used in their area. Pre-embed the specimen block or the blade.

Place a new blade in the blade holder and clamp it before the rotary wheel lock is released.

~~Once the blade is seated and secured the rotary wheel lock can be released and the knife and~~

~~holder advanced to the specimen block. Remove the blade from the housing if the housing with the blade present~~

If the blades are reusable, cut re-embed the specimen block before sharpening or cleaning.

Cleaning of the Microtome

The rotary wheel must be locked and blade removed from the holder before cleaning. Ensure that the rotary wheel is locked before cleaning.