

Ethidium Bromide (EtBr)-Precautions for Safe Handling

This is nasty stuff—a potent mutagen, and it binds to your DNA, and may prevent DNA repair and replication. You must take all precautions to avoid spreading EtBr. A dedicated tray should be set up in the lab for aliquoting the concentrated stock. The only objects that should come in contact with Et Br are: the flask; the gel tray; the gel combs; and the gel tank. Gloves should be worn when preparing gels, but should be removed and thrown in the bin as soon as the gel is poured—to prevent accidental spreading. When the gel is finished running, put on another pair of gloves and rinse the gel in water before putting on the transilluminator. These gloves should then only touch the gel. Remove one glove when using the **gel Doc** (preferably the right) and use this clean hand to adjust the camera and use the mouse. In the **darkroom** bear in mind that the camera and light switch will be contaminated. **Do not pick up the face masks by the head strap.**

Ethidium Bromide (EtBr) Liquid Waste Disposal

Liquid Waste, from agarose gel running buffer and Post-stain, should be placed in a labelled beaker with activated charcoal powder, at a rate of 1g/L and stirred overnight (the charcoal absorbs the EtBr). The charcoal is then filtered out, the water goes down the sink, and the charcoal and filter paper go in the EtBr solid waste bins (which are later put in the yellow bin in the cold room for incineration).