Good lab housekeeping reduces the number of accidents, minimize risks & consequences of slips, trips, falls, unplanned reactions and fire.

Space is always at a premium. Don’t be a hoarder!

- Limiting combustible materials like paper or cardboard reduces risk of fire. Never block emergency exits, fire extinguishers, safety showers, eyewashes, or electrical panels.
- Consider scheduling frequent lab clean-out days (at least quarterly) and pickups for chemicals that are no longer needed or used. Make arrangements to service, maintain, or remove broken equipment. Manage chemical waste by proper collection and segregation, closing and labelling the containers.
- No food and drinks should be stored or consumed in wet labs.
- Routine use of an EPA registered disinfectant on any surfaces in contact with microorganisms.
- Secure razors and sharps in storage when not in use to prevent incidental sharp injuries.
- Clean freezer coils periodically to prevent accumulation of dust and potential fires.

Columbia University EH&S
Environmental Health & Safety
Irving Medical Center: (212)305-6780
Morningside and Manhattanville: (212)854-8749