

VII. Equipment

C. Centrifuge

There are a few important guidelines for operating a centrifuge. Following them can prevent damage to the centrifuge and possible serious injury to you and others.



1. Make a counterbalance for the centrifuge tube you want to put in the centrifuge. The masses, not volumes, of the tubes should be as close as possible! Unbalanced tubes may permanently damage the centrifuge.
2. Put the tubes opposite each other in the centrifuge. If you have more than two tubes, only the ones opposite each other have to be equal in mass.
3. Enter your settings such as rotations per minute.
4. Remove the tubes carefully after the centrifuge has completely stopped spinning. This is so that the different suspensions do not mix again.
5. Do not open the lid while the rotor is moving. Even though many centrifuges have a "safetyshutoff" if the lid is opened, the only thing this does is stop powering the rotor. The rotor will still spin due to its own inertia for a while until friction slows and eventually stops it.