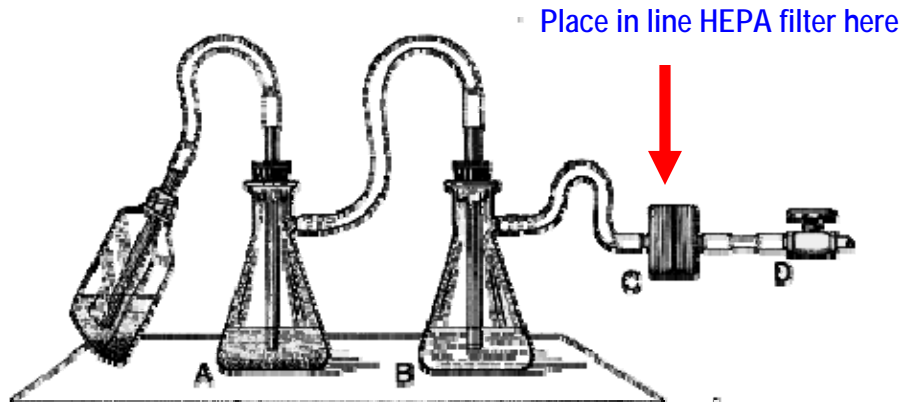




Protection of Vacuum Systems Used in Tissue Culture Work


One method to protect a house vacuum system during aspiration of infectious fluids can be seen below. The left suction flask (A) is used to collect the contaminated fluids into a suitable decontamination solution; the right flask serves as a fluid overflow collection vessel. Flask B is used to minimize splatter. An in-line HEPA filter (C) is used to protect the vacuum system (D) from aerosolized microorganisms.



Office of Health and Safety, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
1600 Clifton Road N.E., Mail Stop F05 Atlanta, Georgia 30333, USA

If a glass flask is used at floor level, place it in a plastic container to prevent breakage by accidental kicking. In BSL2- or higher laboratories, the use of Nalgene flasks is recommended to reduce the risk of breakage.

HEPA Filters available from Fisher Scientific*

<p>For Vacuum Line Required for Biosafety Level 2 (BSL - 2) or higher</p> 	<p>Whatman* HEPA-Vent* Filter Assure sterile air for mixing, filling, storing, fermenting, and transporting with this Whatman filter. Glass fiber filter is treated to be mildly hydrophobic; repels moisture, prevents bacterial growth; 0.3µm particle retention unaffected by autoclaving. Bidirectional flow. 16cm² filter area.</p> <p>Inlet/Outlet: 1/4-3/8 in. tapered hose barb Whatman No.: 6723-5000</p>	<p>Fisher Scientific:</p> <p>09-744-79</p>
--	--	---

References:

1. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Primary Containment of Biohazards: Selection, Installation and Use of Biological Safety Cabinets. (Washington: GPO, 1995)
2. National Sanitation Foundation Standard 49. 1983. Class II (Laminar Flow) Biohazard Cabinetry. Ann Arbor, Michigan.