

Master Any Type of Liquid

Type of Liquid		Potential problems	Workaround	Recommendations		
		Observations	Air-cushion pipettes	Positive displacement dispenser	Positive displacement pipettes	Bottletop dispenser and burets
Water		> Air-cushion pipettes are optimized to the physical properties of water	Optimally suitable for the use of waterNo adaptation necessary	> Serial pipetting for multiple samples and vessel formats	> Varitip S*3,4 system allows accurate pipetting from large bottles and narrow vessels	> Liquid dispensing directly from supply bottles
Viscous e.g. glycerol, oil		> High resistance to flow> Liquid residues stay attached to inside tip wall> Imprecise results	> Work slowly > Reverse pipetting > Adjust to liquid type*1	 Higher precision regardless of physical properties of liquid Serial dispensing No adjustment to liquid type needed 	> Varitip P*2 allows accurate pipetting, for example from beakers	> Liquid dispensing directly from supply bottles (with Varispenser® 2/2x up to a viscosity of 500 mm ^{2/s}
Dense e.g. sulfuric acid, caesium chloride		Influence on size of air-cushionDispensed volume too low or too high	 Adjust pipette to liquid density Adjust to liquid type*1 	 Higher precision regardless of physical properties of liquid Serial dispensing No adjustment to liquid type needed 	> Varitip P*2 allows accurate pipetting, for example from beakers	> Liquid dispensing directly from supply bottles up to a density of 2.2 g/cm ³
Volatile e.g. acetone, ethanol	555	> Air-cushion expands> Liquid drips out of the tip> Imprecise results	 > Prewet at least 5 times > Reverse pipetting > Adjust to liquid type*1 	 Higher precision regardless of physical properties of liquid Serial dispensing No adjustment to liquid type needed 	 Varitip P*2 allows accurate pipetting, for example from beakers Varitip S system and valve for drip-free dispensing 	> Liquid dispensing directly from supply bottles up to a vapor pressure of 500 mbar
Infectious / radioactive e.g. biohazard material		> Aerosols contaminate pipette> Threat to human health and sample safety	Use filter tipsAutomated systems protect user and sample	Higher precision regardless of physical properties of liquidSerial dispensing	> Varitip P*2 allows accurate pipetting, for example from beakers	> Liquid dispensing directly from supply bottles
Detergent / detergent- containing e.g. Tween 20, Triton™ X-100		> Reduced surface tension> Liquid residues stick to the inner wall of the tip> Imprecise results	 Use tips with low retention effect Adjust to liquid type*1 	Higher precision regardless of physical properties of liquidSerial dispensing	> Varitip P*2 allows accurate pipetting, for example from beakers	> Liquid dispensing directly from supply bottles (with Varispenser® 2/2x up to a viscosity of 500 mm ^{2/s}
Foaming e.g. protein- containing liquids	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	> Foam is created> Liquid residues remain in the tip> Imprecise results	> Reverse pipetting	Higher precision regardless of physical properties of liquidSerial dispensing	> Varitip P*2 allows accurate pipetting, for example from beakers	> Liquid dispensing directly from supply bottles
*1 This option is only available on automated systems and electronic pipettes *2.3.4 See Varipette® 4720 for corresponding Eppendorf Varitips® Eppendorf Solutions						
Mechanical systems		Advantages > Easy to clean > Economical > Lightweight	> Eppendorf Research® plus > Eppendorf Reference® 2 > Research plus Move It® > Pipet Helper®	> Multipette® M4	> Varipette® 4720	> Varispenser® 2/2x for dispensing large volumes
Electronic systems		Advantages > High reproducibility > Ergonomic working > Multifunctionality	> Eppendorf Xplorer® (plus) > Pipette Manager > Xplorer plus Move It® > Easypet® 3 > epMotion®	> Multipette® E3/E3x		> Eppendorf Top Buret for titration