Prior to operating this instrument, complete the UC Lab Safety Fundamentals and Annual Lab Hazards Training

Read, understand and acknowledge your lab’s microtome hazard control plan on myresearchsafety.ucsd.edu

Familiarize yourself with your specific instrument’s user manual

Read, understand, and sign the Safety Office’s Cryostat and Microtome Safety Documents (check with your area safety coordinator)

A designated microtome/cryostat trainer in your lab should provide an instrument orientation, explain all safety aspects, and supervise first time operation

Proper minimum PPE must be worn: safety glasses, lab coat, disposable gloves and cut resistant (Kevlar or stainless steel mesh) gloves if changing blades

No blades or other sharp edges on countertop and surrounding area

Lock the hand wheel and guard the blade (and foot pedal if applicable) before any tissue manipulation

Ensure a clear distance between hands and blade

Use brushes or appropriate tools to position and collect samples

Use a magnetic tool to remove the blade if necessary

Use a brush to sweep unwanted sections

If leaving the instrument momentarily, lock the wheel and engage the blade guard. Put a sign on the machine to warn others it is currently in use

When work is complete, leave the area clean and free of any sharp objects

Instrument blades should be disposed in a sharps container or properly secured

Unwanted sections and reagents should be disposed properly

The cryostat or microtome is an instrument that uses sharp blades to cut thin sections of fixed or unfixed tissue. Please consult with your area safety coordinator and follow this checklist prior to use.