

Hazy Image? Check This First.

A quick reference for anyone getting a blurry or low-contrast image on a lab microscope.

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It's usually not the objective

Most hazy, low-contrast images trace back to one of four things, and none of them require a service call to fix.

✓ Do This

Check the eyepiece first

Oils from eyelashes and skin build up here fastest. Wipe with lens tissue and look again.

Inspect the objective's front lens

Dust and fingerprints on this surface show up as haze immediately.

Check the condenser

An off-center or dirty condenser causes exactly this kind of low-contrast, hazy image.

Look at the slide under room light

Fingerprints, dust, or old mounting media residue are easy to miss under the scope.

Work top to bottom, every time

Eyepiece, objective, condenser, slide. In that order, before you touch anything else.

✗ Avoid This

Assuming it's the objective

Most "my scope is broken" calls turn out to be one of the other three.

Wiping with anything but lens tissue

A shirt sleeve or paper towel scratches coatings and makes things worse.

Skipping the condenser check

It's the most overlooked cause of haze and the easiest to fix.

Ignoring the slide itself

Sometimes the problem is sitting right there under the coverslip.

Calling for service before checking these four

Save the truck roll. Check these first, every time.

THE HABIT, EVERY TIME

STEP 1

Wipe the eyepiece

STEP 2

Check the objective lens

STEP 3

Check the condenser

STEP 4

Inspect the slide