



LabNotes

NO. 74

SAFETY NEWS FOR UCSD RESEARCHERS

FALL 2006

Maximizing Fume Hood Effectiveness

Chemical fume hoods are one of the most important tools in the laboratory for controlling exposures to hazardous chemicals, **if they are functioning properly and used correctly.**

Air flow certification: EH&S tests UCSD fume hoods annually to ensure they meet functional design standards. The face velocity of air entering the hood is measured, and the opening that gives 100 linear feet per minute is marked in relation to the sash. This is the maximum opening at which air flow requirements are achieved.



Align arrows for optimum face velocity.

- Best practice:** Raise the fume hood sash above this level only while setting up your project. During operation, position the fume hood sash as low as possible to ensure adequate worker protection.

Air flow sensors: Some fume hoods are also equipped with air flow sensors that activate an audible alarm when malfunctions occur. Call Facilities Management, (858) 534-2930, if the hood alarm is activated or if you suspect a malfunction.

Continued on back...see Fume Hoods

Lab Coat Etiquette

Leave personal protection equipment (PPE), including lab coats, at the workplace to prevent the spread of contamination **and the perception** that you may be spreading contamination.

Never wear lab coats, gloves, or other PPE into cafeterias, rest rooms, elevators, or off-site areas. Even if you're certain your lab coat is not contaminated, the general public doesn't share your confidence. Lab coats protect your clothes from laboratory contaminants. Worn outside the work area, lab coats may be viewed with concern.

Follow these best practices to avoid spreading contaminants **and** unnecessary concern:

- Remove all PPE before leaving your workplace.
- Always wash your hands after you remove protective equipment and before you leave the work area, especially if you're going to a public location such as the cafeteria, elevator, restroom, library, or offices.
- Have lab coats laundered regularly.



Questions about PPE? Contact an EH&S Research Assistance Program (RAP) specialist: <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/rap>.

New at Marketplace: Autoclavable Biohazard Waste Containers

<https://marketplace.ucsd.edu/LabSafety.asp>

Marketplace offers next day delivery of new Nalgene autoclavable biohazard waste containers. Features include 1-step sterilization, 1-hand disposal, and the red biohazard symbol in English and Spanish. These sturdy containers won't rust, dent, or puncture. Available in 3 sizes:



- 1.5 gallon Part# 7753
- 5 gallon Part# 7754
- 15 gallon Part# 7755

Marketplace partners with EH&S to supply UCSD researchers with equipment that meets regulatory requirements. Shop Marketplace at <https://marketplace.ucsd.edu/LabSafety.asp>.

Questions about biosafety at UCSD? Contact EH&S Biosafety at ehsbio@ucsd.edu, or (858) 534-5366.



Please Post or Circulate



"Safety Training Days" on Enrollment Central

Register online at Enrollment Central:
<http://enrollmentcentral.ucsd.edu>

Browse "EH&S—Safety" under Course Topics for classes and schedules. Learn more about UCSD safety training resources at <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/safetytraining>.

Ergonomics Resource Fund

Get funding from EH&S to help purchase ergonomically-designed office and lab products exclusively from Marketplace just by completing ergonomic training. It's easy. Read "Ergonomics Resource Fund" on Blink at <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/ergofund> to learn how.

Explore the range of Marketplace Ergonomic Solutions at <http://marketplace.ucsd.edu/Ergonomic.asp>.



Fume Hoods continued

Follow these guidelines to achieve optimum worker protection from your fume hood:

- Confirm your fume hood has been certified within the last 12 months. If not, don't use it. Notify EH&S immediately: (858) 534-3660.
- Ensure the sash is properly functioning. Close the sash when the fume hood is not in use.
- Make sure the rear baffles are in place, properly adjusted, and the baffle openings are clear.
- Make sure the bottom front air foil is in place and is unobstructed by electrical cords or hoses.
- Position the sash as low as practical. Use hoods equipped with horizontal sliding panes with the sash all the way down, with as small an open area as practical.

- Control user traffic and cross drafts which can easily overwhelm the face velocity.
- Work at least 6 inches inside the hood.
- Keep your hood free of clutter. Equipment in hoods can interfere with air flow and create turbulence. If absolutely necessary, position essential equipment deep in the hood. Maintain a large air gap around the equipment.
- Do not store hazardous waste or other unwanted materials in fume hoods.
- Recognize hood limitations. Use a glove bag or box as necessary. Use special purpose containment devices such as perchloric hoods or biosafety cabinets when needed.

Learn more about chemical fume hoods on Blink at <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/fumehood>.

If you have questions about fume hoods or other engineering controls, or would like to schedule an assessment of your hood usage, contact the Chemical Safety Officer at (858) 822-1579 or ehschem@ucsd.edu.



Picking Up Radioactive Materials Orders

Strict regulations apply when personnel pick up radioactives at the EH&S Services Lab.

If you are an authorized user on an Radioisotope Use Authorization (RUA), you may pick up radioactive materials from the EH&S Services Lab. For your safety, please closely follow the information below:

- Go directly from the EH&S Services Lab back to your lab.
- You may bring a clean, uncontaminated secondary container to carry the package.
- Don't travel via campus shuttles.
- Don't use a personal motor vehicle.
- Don't bring food or drinks to the EH&S Services Lab.
- Properly store your radioactive materials.

The EH&S Services Lab is located in University Center building 301-B, on the Corner of Myers and Gilman Drive. Hours for material pick up are from 1–4:30 p.m. each business day.

See "Buying Radioactive Materials" on Blink at <http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/buyradio> to learn more about purchasing radioactive materials for research at UCSD.

Questions about radiation safety at UCSD? Contact EH&S Radiation Safety at ehsrad@ucsd.edu, or (858) 534-6138.



ChemCycle

<http://chemtech.ucsd.edu/Reuse/>

Obtain free chemicals and donate usable surplus chemicals through the ChemCycle program. It's good for the pocketbook and the environment.