

Laboratory Fume Hood Safety

A. General

- Laboratory fume hoods are important safety devices.
- Hoods function as local exhaust ventilation that protect personnel from exposure to chemicals being handled
- Training of personnel, proper design of experiments and careful operation of equipment are equally important for lab safety
- Fume hoods cannot overcome poor work practices by users.

B. Good Fume Hood Practices

Operation

- Before using a hood check that the air is exhausting properly
- If the hood is not working, notify Laboratory Safety Manager.
- Keep sash openings to a minimum
- Hoods are annually tested and certified by Technical Safety Services and are done more frequently on request
- Hood sash should not be positioned higher than the line on the "Approved Use" sticker.
- Users should keep their faces outside the plane of the hood sash
- Keep front air foil clear - don't block with lab bench liner
- Don't block hood exhaust openings or room air supply vents; they are essential
- for the proper operation and capture efficiency of the hood
- Keep hood sashes closed when not in use
- Design experiments NOT to exceed the hoods exhaust capacity with anticipated experimental emissions. Contact Facilities if you are not sure.

Storage

- Do not store chemicals in a hood
 - Stored chemicals may add to the seriousness of an incident such as a fire
 - Stored chemicals block exhaust openings
- Only necessary equipment should be placed in the hood
- Large equipment impedes air flow and causes air turbulence and poor capture efficiency
- Place large equipment on spacers to allow for air to pass underneath