Fume Hoods – Safety Talk

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

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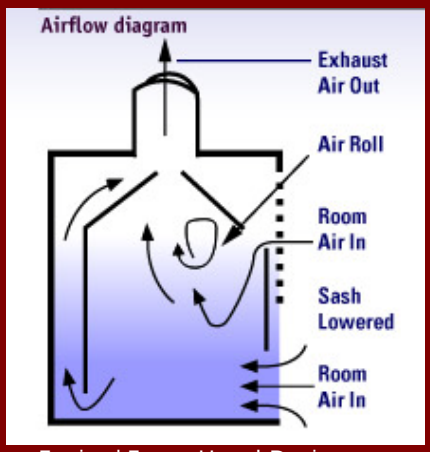


Typical Fume Hood Design

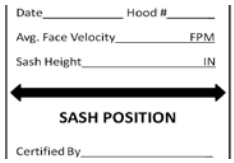
Fume hoods are designed to protect the user from harmful fumes and vapors as well as potential explosions from reactions that may happen during chemical manipulations.

When working within a fume hood, proper usage is very important to lessen any potential exposures.

Safe Fume Hood Operating Guidelines

USE THE HOOD AT THE PROPER SASH HEIGHT

This is indicated with a certification sticker on the front of the hood.



DO NOT BLOCK AIR FLOW

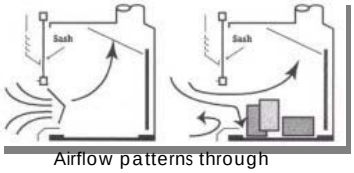
If you use absorbent paper in the hood, do not block the airfoil. Place large equipment towards the back of the hood and raise it about two inches with blocks or bricks. This will allow airflow around and under the equipment.

CLOSE THE SASH

When you have finished working for the day or when leaving research or chemicals unattended, pull the sash down. By doing this you not only protect yourself from fires and explosions, but it also saves energy.

ELIMINATE CLUTTER

Excessive storage will disrupt the air flow patterns and put users at risk. Place chemicals in proper storage cabinets within the laboratory.



Airflow patterns through empty & cluttered fume hoods.

WEAR PPE

In addition to proper fume hood use, personal protective equipment must also be used. Safety glasses, gloves, aprons, lab coats etc. must always be worn during chemical manipulations in case of accidental spills or explosions.

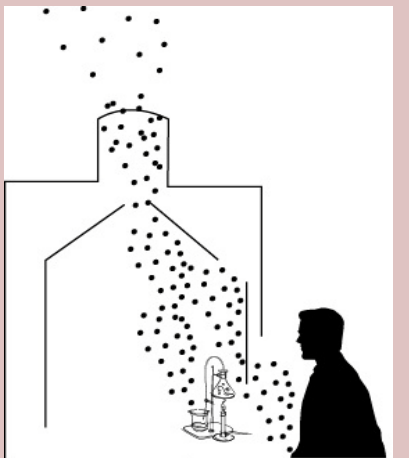
QUESTIONS? CALL EH&S

If any fume hood is not operating properly, discontinue use and contact Environmental Health and Safety at 773-702-9999 to arrange for testing of the fume hood(s)

ELIMINATE CROSS DRAFTS

Pedestrian traffic close to the fume hood and/or quick hand movements in and out of the fume hood reduce the effectiveness of the fume hood by creating cross drafts which allow contaminants to escape into the room.

To prevent gases or vapors from escaping the fume hood, keep experiments at least six inches from the front of the fume hood.



PERCHLORATES AND RADIATION USAGE

Perchlorics and radioactive material should be used in specially designed fume hoods.

Hoods used for radioactive materials are approved for use by Radiation Safety.

Perchlorics should only be used in hoods with wash down systems to prevent explosions.