

FUME HOOD WORK PRACTICES

Laboratory fume hoods are designed to protect the user from hazardous airborne contaminants that may be released in an experiment. It is important to understand and follow the procedures that can insure that the hoods are used properly. EH&S and the Utilities Department Test and maintain all fume hoods. Each fume hood should have a sticker denoting the approved sash height, last date of inspection and face velocity. If the inspection date is older than one year, contact EH&S. Do not use any fume hood that is not in proper working order. For more information consult the FAU Chemical Hygiene Plan.

- Conduct all operations, which may generate air contaminants inside a hood.
- General use fume hoods must have an average face velocity of 80-120 linear feet per minute (lfpm). Radioisotope fume hoods require an average face velocity of 100-120 lfpm.
- When using a fume hood, ensure that there is indeed airflow in the proper direction. By holding a tissue or thin piece of paper in front of the sash and viewing which direction it sways, you ensure that the hood is working properly.
- Adjust the fume hood sash to the appropriate level indicated on the sticker. When not in use the hood should be slightly open and left on.
- Keep all apparatus and reagents at least 6 inches back from the face of the hood.
- Do not block the opening in the back of the fume hood.
- Do not store chemicals in the hood. Store chemicals in the approved safety cabinets.
- Do not use the hood as a waste disposal mechanism