

Chemical fume hoods are the primary engineering control in most laboratories, and serve as the “first line of defense” against exposure to hazardous chemicals. Environmental Health & Safety (EH&S) personnel inspect and certify chemical fume hoods annually.

Best Practices

- Keep your head outside of the chemical fume hood at all times.
- Keep the sash closed when the chemical fume hood is unattended in case of chemical reactions inside the fume hood.
- Use risers to lift any equipment from the deck of the fume hood to allow proper air flow.
- Opening or closing doors or windows, or moving quickly in front of the chemical fume hood may impact the airflow of the hood. This could result in potential chemical exposure to laboratory occupants.
- Report chemical fume hood failure to the laboratory supervisor and/or Facilities for repair.



Example of a Standard Chemical Fume Hood.



Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

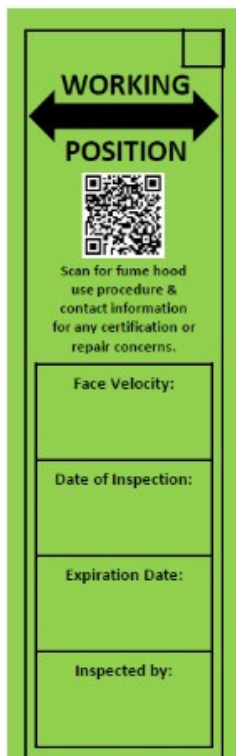
Chemical fume hoods are not a replacement for good laboratory practices. One must wear the appropriate PPE (e.g., eyewear, gloves, and lab coat) for the experiments being conducted.

Housekeeping

- Keep your fume hood clutter free!
- Clean the work area after use.
 - Properly capped chemical containers do not need to be stored inside chemical fume hoods.
- Keep chemicals at least six inches behind the sash opening.
- If your lab anticipates the need to use an open flame in the hood, please contact labsafety@columbia.edu for a consultation.

Fun FAQ!

Only use the hood at the certified operating height indicated by the annual certification sticker. This is between 12 – 18 inches!



Fume hood
Certification Sticker

For questions or concerns regarding service, repairs, certifications, or repair status contact EH&S.

Have more questions? Reach out to EH&S at Labsafety@columbia.edu or give us a call

CUIMC: (212) 305 - 6780

Manhattanville/Morningside: (212) 854 - 8749



@Columbiaehs

QR Code: Columbia EH&S Chemical Fume Hood Use Procedures

