

Top 5 Fume Hood Safety Tips

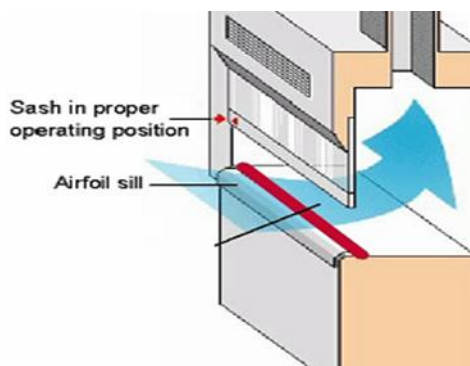
The chemical fume hood is the primary engineering method in laboratories for controlling inhalation exposures to hazardous substances, but in order to gain the full benefits of a fume hood you need to use it correctly. This article will explain the top 5 safety precautions that need to be taken when using a chemical fume hood safely. This list only contains the top 5 fume hood tips. There are many more safety procedures that you need to follow for proper fume hood use.

1. Use a Fume Hood for All Chemical Experiments and Manipulations if Possible

- It's better to use a fume hood than to risk exposure or have to rely on a respirator.
- If a spill, explosion, or fire should occur a fume hood provides protection.

2. Close The Sash!

- If you have a spill in a fume hood, close the sash.
- If room ventilation goes down, close the sash.
- If you leave your fume hood unattended, close the sash.
- If an alarm sounds on the fume hood, close the sash.



3. Do Not Use the Fume Hood for Chemical Storage

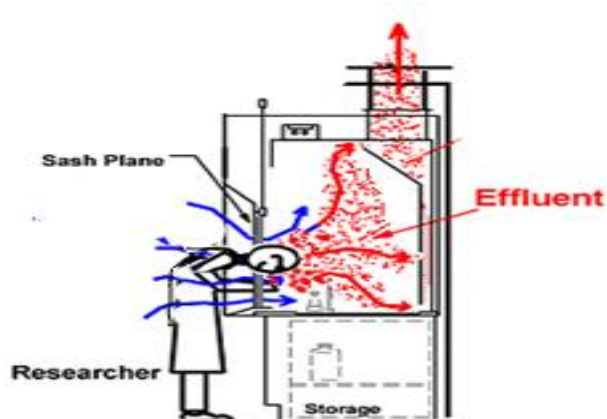
- Keep only chemicals and equipment necessary for the experiment in the fume hood.



4. Do Not Lean into the Fume Hood

- This disrupts the airflow and reduces the efficiency of the fume hood.

- Leaning into the fume hood may result in unnecessary exposure to the user.



5. **When in Use, Keep the Sash Opening at a Maximum of 18" (for a vertical sash hood) or a Max of Two Panels Open (for a horizontal sash hood).**
- Having the hood opened greater than 18" (or more than 2 sashes) decreases the effectiveness and may put the hood into alarm.
 - Only open above 18" (or more than 2 sashes) when moving large items into or out of the hood.



The Chemical Safety Office offers live training sessions for large groups (15 or more) and will soon offer an online version of the training. For additional fume hood safety tips or training please contact the Office of Chemical Safety at chemsafety@fpm.wisc.edu.

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