

EYEWASH FOUNTAINS & SAFETY SHOWERS

How to Use and Test

Department of Chemistry

Use eyewash fountains and safety showers in the event of chemical exposure to eyes or skin. Two assistants are recommended – one to assist with rinsing and another to mop water.

Environmental Health and Safety inspects our eyewash fountains and safety showers annually using procedures recommended by the American National Standards Institute. It is important, however, to test this equipment more frequently; tests will reveal plumbing problems, reduce buildup of sediment in the lines, flush out microorganisms that can cause infection, and make lab workers more familiar and confident with the operation of the equipment.

Eyewash fountains and safety showers must be tested at least quarterly (March, June, September, and December) by lab occupants in research laboratories and at least monthly by LabServices staff in teaching laboratories.

EYEWASH FOUNTAINS

To use:

- Push the lever to turn on. Water will run until the lever is turned off.
- Flush eyes for 15-20 minutes.
Note: Many fountains do not drain to the sewer; water in these fountains will overflow.
- Pull lever back to turn off.
- Report all accidents to the laboratory supervisor and the department chair.

To test:

- Most fountains do not have drains, so use a bucket to catch the water.
- Turn on the valve and let the water run for a few minutes. If the water is discolored or contains a lot of sediment, let it run until it is clear.
- Report problems (e.g., unequal spray, missing screen, no water) to the Chemistry office.
- Write the date and your initials on the tag.

SAFETY SHOWERS

To use:

- Pull the handle down to turn on.
- Remove clothing if necessary.
Note: Approximately 30 gallons per minute will flow until handle is pushed up. The showers do not have drains; if an assistant is available, he/she should mop the floor.
- Push handle up to stop flow when finished.
- If possible, the shower water should be retained for Environmental Health and Safety.
- Report all accidents to the laboratory supervisor and the department chair.

To test:

- The showers do not have drains; use a bucket and funnel (which can be checked out from ChemStores) to avoid spilling water on the floor and yourself.
- To activate the shower, pull the handle down. Let the water run for several seconds. Push the handle up to turn off the water.
- Report problems to the Chemistry office.
- Write the date and your initials on the tag.