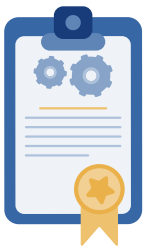
Chemical Fume Hood Operation

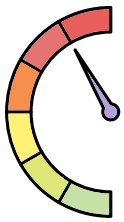
Before Using Fume Hood

Make sure that the fume hood was certified within the last 12 months.

Learn the hazards of the chemical(s) you are using. Refer to Standard Operating Procedures or Safety Data Sheets if you are unsure.



If the hood has an alarm or meter, make sure average face velocity flow is between 100 and 150 linear feet per min.



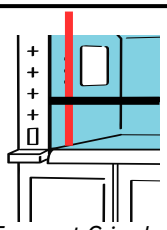
If your hood does not have meter, a tissue can be used to verify that flow is going away from operator.

Elevate large items at least 2 inches to allow air flow on all sides.

Ensure equipment exhaust pipes that lead into the fume hood are secure.

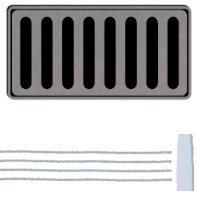
When Using Fume Hood

Work with hazardous materials at least 6 inches inside of the fume hood. Never place your head inside of the fume hood.



Tape at 6 inches into the hood can help remind users to work behind the line.

Do not block the airflow through the baffles, grates, or the exhaust slots.

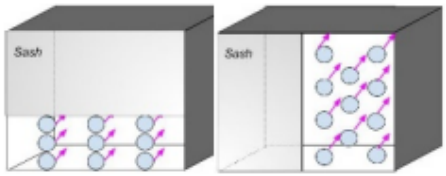


Do not use power strips or extension cords in fume hood.

Do not use the fume hood to evaporate **waste**.

Do not **permanently** store chemicals inside the hood. Clearly label any unattended chemicals/reactions with their hazards and identity.

Do not exceed the sash level indicated on the side for vertical sashes - usually around 18 inches from work surface.



For horizontal sashes, the safe opening distance will be marked on the top or bottom of the fume hood.

Adjust seat so that you're working at a comfortable height. Use foot rests for additional comfort.

If the fume hood fails: Close sash to see if airflow improves. If flow does not promptly return, turn off heat and ignition sources. Close gas valves and chemicals. Close sash and evacuate the area. **GET HELP from safety staff.**

After Using Fume Hood

Clean work surfaces after use to prevent chemical accumulation.

Put away chemicals. Place solid, sharps, and liquid waste into appropriate waste containers.

Wash your hands, turn off the light, and **close the sash**.

Need Help?

- Ask the lab/shop supervisor
- Ask the department/college safety staff
- Ask SJSU Environmental Health & Safety ehs@sjsu.edu