

# The Facts

## On Fume Hood Safety



## OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

The fume hood is often the primary control device for protecting laboratory workers when working with flammable and/or toxic chemicals. By following safe operating procedures for fume hoods, we can prevent injuries and property loss.

### Fume Hood Function

- Airflow should be 80 to 120 feet per minute (fpm).
- The sash height should be set at 18 inches or below from the bottom of the opening.
- A fume hood that is **NOT** performing properly is often worse than no hood at all because the user is likely to have a false sense of security about its ability to provide protection.
- Occupational and Environmental Safety (OES) evaluates the performance of fume hoods annually.
- OES marks each hood with a calibration sticker indicating the airflow, date of test, and arrow indicating the 18-inch sash height.
- Facilities Services works to identify and correct problems that may arise.

### Before Using a Fume Hood

- Make sure that you understand how the hood works.
- You should be trained to use it properly.
- Know the hazards of the chemical you are working with; refer to the chemical's Safety Data Sheet (SDS) if you are unsure.
- Make sure that the monitor/alarm is working, and the airflow is within the required range.
- Understand the emergency action plan for your lab.
- Make sure airfoils, baffles and sash stops have not been removed.

**Promptly report any hood that is not functioning properly to your supervisor, Department Safety Coordinator or OES. Post that the hood has been removed from service.**

**If you have any questions regarding the performance of the hood, safe work practices, or training please contact OES at 864-656-0341 or visit our website:**

[Clemson - OES](#)

### Safe Use of a Fume Hood

- Eliminate clutter in the hood. Fume hoods are not meant for permanent storage of chemicals or lab equipment.
- Keep combustibles, such as paper towels, out of the hood.
- Never allow your head to enter the plane of the hood opening.
- Use appropriate eye protection and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- Be sure that nothing blocks the airflow through the baffles or through the baffle exhaust slots.
- Elevate large equipment (e.g., a centrifuge) at least two inches off the base of the hood interior.
- Keep all materials inside the hood at least six inches from the sash opening.
- When not working in the hood, close the sash.
- Minimize traffic near the hood, especially when conducting a hazardous work.
- Do not use fume hoods as a means of evaporating old or unwanted chemicals.

