LABORATORY HOODS
Laboratory hoods are the primary means for protecting individuals from inhaling volatile chemicals in a lab.

When possible use volatile chemicals in a laboratory hood.
Motion Sensor

Baffles

(slide hood)

Gasketed Access Panel

Baffle Control Lever

Electronic Controls

Sash
1. Don’t store chemicals in the lab hood.

2. Place equipment and apparatus as far back into the hood as possible. Equipment, apparatus, and chemicals need to be positioned at least 6 inches in back of the sash.

3. Large bulky equipment or apparatus should be placed in the hood in a manner that allows airflow around them. Raise large items an inch or two above the work surface.

4. Position the sash to minimize the sash openings when performing work in the hood.
1. Verify that the hood is functioning properly by checking the following:
   • If present, check the standard operation light (see image to the right);
   • Verify that audible alarms are not sounding and air is flowing into the hood; and
   • Check the testing and certification label (see image to the right) to make sure an adequate face velocity was achieved last time the hood was tested.

2. Position the baffles (see following slides).

3. Position the sash to minimize the sash openings, but still allow you to perform your work.
Adjust the baffle position depending upon what chemicals are being used in the hood and how they are being used.
1. Avoid rapid body movements when using a hood.
2. Don’t open the sash rapidly.
3. Never place your head inside a lab hood (unfortunately this has been observed at BYU)
During use of any hood, if you detect vapors or gases escaping the hood then:

1. Stop what you are doing;
2. Examine your work practices to ensure you are not creating eddies that are kicking contaminants out of the hood; and
3. If the problem persists contact the college Health & Safety Officer (2-6589) or Risk Management (2-4468) to have the face velocity and direction of flow checked.
Use the emergency flow button if a spill occurs inside the hood, or if there is a problem achieving standard flow.

Contact Physical Facilities (422-5555) if your hood is in need of repair.

Note: clean up spills as soon as possible to avoid damage to the exposed surfaces of the laboratory hood.
Almost all laboratory hoods within the college use sensors to detect whether or not an individual is present or if the sash is open.

Note: Please close the sash when the hood is not in use.
Chemicals must be used in an appropriate hood.

Example:

-Perchloric Acid-

Always use perchloric acid in a downwash hood. Not doing so may endanger the life of the individual who services the ventilation system.
Hydrofluoric acid must be used in a designated hood that is labeled or signed to indicate its use.

All individuals working in a laboratory where hydrofluoric acid is used must complete hydrofluoric acid training. Contact the college Health & Safety Officer (422-6589) or Risk Management (422-4468) for more information.
Don’t alter laboratory hoods or ventilation ducting.

Never tap into an existing duct.

If you feel the ventilation system needs to be altered please contact Physical Facilities and/or submit a work order.