

Safety Showers and Eyewash Stations

Essential Safety Equipment for Labs



Enterprise Business Center of Louisiana

Importance of Safety Showers and Eyewash Stations

- **Key Points:**
 - **Emergency equipment** designed to minimize injury during exposure to hazardous chemicals or materials.
 - Quick access to **dilute** or **wash off** chemicals from the skin or eyes can prevent serious damage.
 - Required by **OSHA** and other safety regulations in workplaces with hazardous materials.



Types of Safety Equipment

Safety Showers:

- Used to wash large areas of the body if contaminated by chemicals.
- Designed to deliver a steady flow of water over the body.

Eye Wash Stations:

- Used to flush chemicals or debris from the eyes.
- Often designed with a **gravity-fed** or **pressurized** system to provide a steady stream of water.



When to Use Safety Showers and Eyewash Stations

- **Safety Showers:**
 - If chemicals spill onto clothing or large areas of skin.
 - When exposed to hazardous liquids, solids, or gases.
- **Eye Wash Stations:**
 - If chemicals get into the eyes.
 - If particles, dust, or biological materials enter the eyes.



Location and Accessibility

- **Where to Install:**
 - Safety showers should be located within **10-15 seconds** from areas with hazardous chemicals.
 - Eye wash stations should be within **100 feet** or a clear path from hazardous material handling areas.
 - **Accessible** at all times: Ensure no obstructions are blocking access.



Proper Usage of Safety Showers

How to Use:

- **Pull the handle** or **activate the lever** to start water flow.
- Stand under the water stream and **remain for at least 15 minutes** to ensure thorough washing.
- **Remove contaminated clothing** (if safe to do so) while under the shower.
- **Continue rinsing** until emergency medical help arrives or the contamination is fully washed off.



Proper Usage of Eyewash Stations

How to Use:

- **Activate the eye wash station** by pulling the lever or pressing the button.
- Place your eyes directly into the **flow of water** and **blink rapidly** to flush contaminants out.
- **Rinse for at least 15 minutes**, making sure to rotate eyes to ensure thorough flushing.
- **Seek medical attention immediately** after flushing eyes.



Maintenance and Inspections

- **Routine Inspections:**

- Test safety showers and eyewash stations at least **once a week** to ensure proper function.
- Ensure water flow is **strong and consistent**.
- **Clear any debris** from the shower area or eye wash station.
- Replace any damaged or missing parts immediately.
- Ensure the **water temperature** is appropriate, typically **60-100°F (15-37°C)**.



Training and Education

Training Requirements:

- Ensure all lab workers are **trained** in the proper use of safety showers and eyewash stations.
- Conduct regular **drills** to ensure everyone knows how to respond in an emergency.
- Make sure the **location** of emergency equipment is clearly marked and **known** by all personnel.



Conclusion and Key Takeaways

- **Key Points:**
 - **Safety showers and eyewash stations** are essential for **immediate decontamination** in the event of chemical exposure.
 - They must be properly **maintained, accessible, and used promptly.**
 - Regular **training** and drills are critical to ensuring **fast and effective action** during an emergency.

