

## Title: Safe Use of Biological Safety Cabinet



Biological Safety Cabinet is a primary engineering control which provides user protection against biohazards as the inflow air creates airflow barrier preventing accidental release of biohazards from the cabinet's working area and at the same time provides product protection with the airflow barrier inside the work zone created by the downflow air. Hand in hand with this are the proper laboratory practices for optimum safety.

## DO's when working with your Biological Safety Cabinet

### Minimize disturbances to airflow barrier.

Avoid rapid movements. Move in a controlled and steady manner.

### Observe correct sash opening height.

Always set the sash to correct opening height when working in your cabinet.

### Observe surface decontamination.

Germicidal UV lamps are not substitute for good cleaning practice. Decontaminate work zone with cleaning agents after use.

### Observe proper working attire.

Wearing complete Personal Protective Equipment should be practiced.



### Observe proper aseptic technique.

Always work from 'clean to dirty', segregating sterile and contaminated items.

### Proper waste and pipette disposal.

Disinfect items/pipettes within the cabinet while biohazard wastes must be bagged inside the cabinet to prevent spread of contamination.

### Work within the 'Safe Area'

Work as deep into the work zone as possible to avoid blocking of the front or back grille.

### Annual BSC Certification

This ensures cabinet airflow and containment factors are within safe limits.

## DONT's when working with your Biological Safety Cabinet

**Do NOT** confuse laminar flow with a biosafety cabinet.

Check the label of the cabinet or look for the biohazard symbol normally located at the upper corner of the cabinet.

**Do NOT** use for agents of extreme hazards.

Do not use the cabinet with any toxic, flammable or explosive materials.

**Do NOT** block the front intake grille.

With the grille blocked, untreated room air can flow over the work area causing contamination to the personnel and product.

**Do NOT** place unnecessary items inside the cabinet.

Anything placed in the cabinets gets contaminated like pens or clipboards. Always disinfect items put into the cabinet before taking it out.

**Do NOT** put waste basket outside the cabinet.

Outside waste basket encourages the user to bring contaminated samples from inside to outside the cabinet.

**Do NOT** operate if any of the alarms are activated.

Visual and audible alarms are activated when sash is not at its correct working height and if airflow is out of normal range.

**Do NOT** work in the cabinet when the UV light is on.

Before turning on the UV light, always make sure that the sash is fully closed to protect the user from UV radiation.

**Do NOT** use open flame inside the cabinet.

Aside from causing airflow disruption, flammable gases may recirculate and build up to the Lower Explosive Level (LEL) and result to an explosion.

**Do NOT** use the cabinet as storage area.

Overloading the cabinet with unnecessary items can affect cabinet airflow and containment.



[Download](#) safety poster for your biosafety cabinet!



**Watch** this instructional video on working safely on BSC.



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