FUME HOOD GUIDELINES FOR CHEMICAL LABS

This list of laboratory safety considerations presents general hood safety concepts that can be adapted to any laboratory.

Ventilation Rates
- The ventilation rate should be checked annually for hood certification - contact EH&S if your hood is past due
- The hood sash should be marked at maximum use opening (vertical sliding sash only) - don’t use the hood with the sash above this mark (if the maximum use opening is not marked, contact EH&S)
- Horizontal sliding sashes should not be removed
- A visible indicator of hood operation should be provided - tape-recording fastened to the sashes is an inexpensive indicator that laboratory workers can install. The tape should be drawn into the hood
- If there is no air flow, stop using the hood, close all containers of hazardous materials and contact EH&S

Chemical Storage
- Chemicals stored in the hood must be capped or covered
- Avoid storing large amounts of chemicals in the hood (it obstructs airflow and reduces usable space)
- Don’t allow stored chemicals to be in close proximity to bunsen burners, hot plates, electrical sources, or other chemicals that might be incompatible
- Work with large amounts of flammable solvents (distillation, where vapors may exceed 20% of the Lower Explosive Limit for the solvent) must be done in explosion-proof hoods
- Biological safety cabinets must have supply and exhaust HEPA filters checked for leakage annually by Technical Safety Services (call 1-800-877-7742 to schedule an appointment) or an equivalent certified vendor
- Perchloric acid digestions, or any other work with perchloric acid, should only be done in hoods approved by EH&S

Visit www.ehs.ucr.edu for additional information or call EH&S at 827-5528 if you have any questions.