

Eyewash Requirements

Eyewashes must be readily accessible in areas with a fume hood, hazardous chemicals, and BSL-2 or BSL-3 spaces. They must be flushed weekly to ensure they are working and to prevent bacteria buildup. Records must be readily available and kept for 1 year.

Weekly checks

Visual inspection:

1. Check for corrosion, leaks, and bacteria growth on the surface
2. Make sure the eyewash area is free from clutter and is easily accessible
3. Check that the eyewash log is visible, signed weekly, and in good condition



Flush:

1. Flush for 2-3 minutes or until the water runs clear
2. Check that the water flow is immediate (within one second), continuous, and that both streams are roughly the same height
3. Make sure that a hands-free unit can be operated as such
4. Sign the log posted next to the eyewash



Report any problems to Facilities Management at 612-624-2900.

In the event of an eye exposure

If you are the injured person:

1. Call for help from those nearby
2. Immediately go to the eyewash
3. Activate the eye wash and flush your eyes for 15 minutes, unless directed otherwise by emergency personnel
4. Seek medical attention for every eye injury



Image source: UC San Diego

If you are the witness/aid:

1. Help the injured person get to the eyewash
2. Call 911
3. Don gloves and help the injured party keep their eyes open and head down
4. Instruct the injured person to:
 - a. Remove contact lenses prior to flushing
 - b. Not to rub their eyes or try to dislodge objects
 - c. Hold their eyelids open and roll their eyes around to ensure water touches all surfaces
 - d. Wash both eyes even if they only believe one has been contaminated
5. Make sure there is a minimum of 15 minutes of flushing, unless directed otherwise by emergency responders

