

What to do when: Working in a Fume Hood – LB/ED

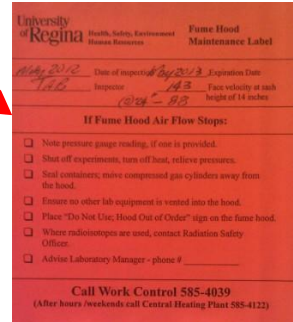
What to look for



Paper fluttering into the fume hood



- First of all, make sure the fume hood is operational and that there is air flow
- Since these older fume hoods don't have low-flow alarms, the best thing to do is use a piece of tissue paper (kim wipe, paper towel) to see if there is air flow
- Check the inspection sticker to make sure the face velocity has been checked in the past year

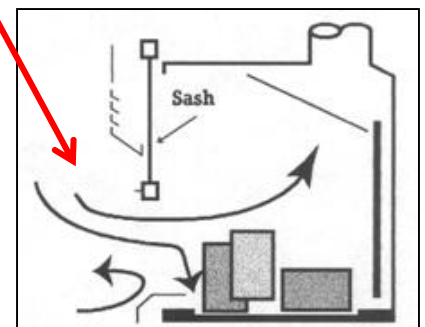
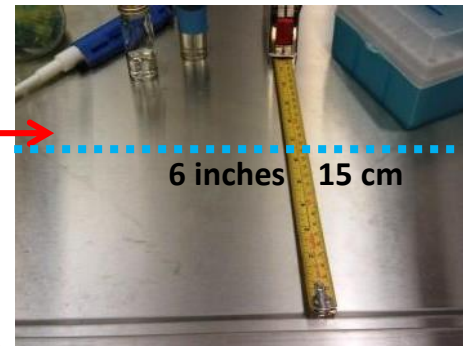


Paper not moving = no air flow



It's all about the air flow:

- Improper air flow leads to backspill of contaminants out of the fume hood
- Make sure you are working as far back as possible – at least six inches (~ 15 cm) from the front of the fume hood
- Clutter (chemical or equipment storage) in a fume hood creates turbulence
- Materials sitting directly on the work surface block the incoming air and propel it back toward the fume hood face.
- If chemical containers or bulky devices must be kept in the chemical fume hood during an experiment, they should be elevated 2 to 3 inches above the interior work surface using jacks, apparatus scaffolding, support stands, ring stands, etc.



Using the Sash

- Make sure the sash is no higher than it needs to be
- You want the sash to be pulled down in front of your face
- Do not use a prop – if a sash won't stay up on its own, report it to work control to get fixed
- Make sure you close the sash all the way when you are not using the fume hood. This saves energy.

