

Lab Safety 101: Summer Refresh

These essential safety reminders will help you and your team stay safe every day!

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

PPE is worn to minimize exposure to many lab hazards. Exposed skin is a risk! Arms and legs should be fully covered when working with hazardous chemical and biological substances. PPE will only protect you if you wear it, even in the summer!

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|---|-----------------|
| ✓ Gloves | ✗ Exposed skin |
| ✓ Lab coat | ✗ Shorts |
| ✓ Enclosed footwear | ✗ Sandals/Crocs |
| ✓ Eye/face/hearing/respiratory protection | |

NOTE: Prescription glasses do not provide adequate eye protection!

Safety glasses designed to fit over prescription lenses, or prescription safety glasses are required.

If you are unsure of your PPE requirements, consult Section 8 Exposure Controls/Personal Protection of the **Safety Data Sheet** (SDS) and/or speak with your supervisor.

PPE must be:

- 1 Properly fitted and clean,
- 2 Worn correctly at all times,
- 3 Donned (put on) and doffed (removed) properly; and,
- 4 Stored and disposed of appropriately.



It is important to inspect PPE before use, as some types (i.e. gloves, masks) can degrade over time.

Contact UR Stores (RI 110) if you require additional PPE

Food and Drink

Food and drink of any kind must **not** be consumed or stored within lab spaces. Lab microwaves, fridges, and freezers are not to be used for food or drinks. Food should never be brought into the lab space, even to be thrown into the garbage.



Working Alone

Working alone, at any time, (not just weekends, evenings, or holidays) increases the risk of serious consequences if an incident occurs. Enhance your personal safety by taking advantage of the 24-hour **Lone Worker Program** with Protective Services. Call 306-585-4407 to discuss check in options.

Know Your Hazards



Now is the time to do a quick check of all your [chemical SDS](#) and [Pathogen Safety Data Sheets](#) to review Hazard(s) identification (Section 2) and other important information such as Handling and Storage (Section 7 – includes incompatibilities) and Disposal Considerations (Section 13).

Show Me What You're Working With!

Proper WHMIS labelling of your chemicals, mixtures, and waste containers is not only important for your safety, but it's the law! Solutions, mixtures and waste containers must also be labelled with a complete list of components and their approx. concentrations.

✓ Buffer Solution A -10% Isopropanol

⊗ Buffer Solution A



If the label or container is too small, it must at minimum include an identifier (sample code or acronym), the users name or initials and the date it was made. Full details, including contents and concentrations, must be referenced in an available lab notebook.

If you come across hazardous chemicals, mixtures that need proper WHMIS labels, or are unsure of proper storage, contact Health & Safety.

Clear the Mess, Prevent the Stress



- Properly dispose of old chemicals, solutions, and samples that are no longer in use.
- Clean all chemical and biological spills right away with the proper reagent or disinfectant.
- Keep all lab surfaces clean and free of clutter.

Let's keep our labs safe, clean, organized, and ready for success!

Have more lab safety questions?
Contact Health & Safety at (306) 337-2370, email health.safety@uregina.ca or
visit the [Health & Safety](#) website

Need to report an [Incident/Near Miss/Safety Concern](#)?
Notify your supervisor and fill out the online form

