

Safety Shower & Eyewash Frequently Asked Questions



1. When do I need to use a safety shower or eyewash?

A safety shower should be used when any amount of corrosive materials comes in contact with the skin no matter how small the amount. The eyewash station should be used when dust, irritants, or chemicals enter the eye.

2. What are the different types of safety equipment?

There are five different types of safety equipment as depicted below

1. Safety shower - Primarily located in hallways and near the entrances of laboratories.
2. Eyewash stations – Typically located below the safety shower or near sinks.
3. Drench hoses – Also located adjacent to laboratory sinks, they are similar to eyewashes but are connected to a hose instead of being stationary.
4. Bullets - Connected to the faucets of sinks, these use the water supplied from the faucet for flushing power (Note: Bullets require the faucet to be turned ON in order for water to come out).
5. Spray bottles - Located on the walls near the entrance of a laboratory. They are a one-time use bottle to spray the affected area if there is no other safety equipment nearby.



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Showers	Eyewashes	Drench Hoses	Bullets	Spray Bottle



3. How do I use a safety shower or eyewash?

Each type of safety equipment is operated differently but all follow a similar process. The switch, lever, handle, or paddle must be pushed or pulled to start the flow of water, and the reverse action must be performed to stop the flow. See [How to Test Your Emergency Eyewash Station](#) handout for more information.

4. How long do I need to use the safety shower or eyewash?

At a minimum, the safety shower or eyewash should be used for 15 minutes to ensure the adequate removal of harmful chemicals.

5. Who do I call if my safety shower or eyewash isn't working?

You can contact UMBC Environmental Safety and Health at 5-2918 or by email at esh@umbc.edu to schedule a safety shower or eyewash test. If a shower or eyewash has zero water flow you should contact Facilities Management Work Control at 5-2550 or submit a [ReADY work request](#).

6. Do I need to test my eyewash?

Yes! Eyewashes should be tested on a weekly basis. Please fill out a weekly test sheet to record your progress. For your convenience, a premade testing sheet is attached to the end of this document. See [How to Test Your Emergency Eyewash Station](#) handout for more information. Please note that emergency showers are tested by ESH annually, individual laboratories do not have to test these.

7. How do I know if my safety shower has been tested by ESH?

Safety Showers are tested annually by ESH. There will be a white tag initialed with the last date it was tested. Contact UMBC ESH if a safety shower does not have a white test tag or if one year has surpassed since the last date of testing.





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8. Can I adjust parts on the safety shower or eyewash?

All the parts on the safety shower or eyewash should remain intact and accessible to ensure it works properly in case of an emergency, this includes the pull handle to the shower or the dust caps for eyewashes and drench hoses.

9. Can I have items or furniture near the safety shower or eyewash?

All items and furniture should be moved clear from the shower or eyewash to allow for proper usage of the equipment in the case of an emergency.

