



Checklist for Safe Use of Biological Safety Cabinets

This checklist is a TEMPLATE, edit/modify as necessary to incorporate your laboratory standard operating procedures (SOPs). Use this checklist as a daily reminder of the activities/tasks needed for safely working in a Biological Safety Cabinet (BSC), a training tool or for annual audit of operational protocols.

Preparing for Work in a BSC:

- Put on PPE according to your laboratory SOP.
- Turn UV light OFF (if used).
- Turn fluorescent light ON.
- Turn the cabinet ON, allow it to run for 4 minutes (or Manufacturer's recommended time) to purge the BSC of particulates. Some cabinets may alarm until purge is complete.
- Verify proper sash height and that sash alarm is ON.
- Verify drain valve underneath the cabinet is closed and valve handle is perpendicular to valve body.
- Check cabinet's certification sticker expiration date is within 1 year.
- Record the pressure differential gauge reading (if present), compare it against the calibration set point.
- Verify inward airflow according to your laboratory SOP (e.g., tissue test, smoke test).
- Schedule uninterrupted work time, if possible.
- Decontaminate all surfaces of the cabinet according to your laboratory SOP.
- Collect all materials needed for the work.

Safe Use of a BSC

- Place absorbent plastic backed material to protect the work surface, if required by your lab SOP.
- Wipe the external surfaces of any equipment or supplies that you will need to place in the BSC.
- Place materials as far back in the cabinet as practical without blocking front and rear grilles.
- Separate clean/sterile items from dirty/potential contaminated items inside the BSC.
- Work from clean to dirty to minimize cross-contamination.
- One person at a time should work in a cabinet
 - o If two people need to work in a BSC, use a 6' cabinet and document the protocol driven need in a risk assessment completed by the Lab Supervisor prior to starting work. with a _____ filter.
- Do not use open flame without approval from the Safety Office.
- Adjust the stool/bench height so your face is above the bottom of the sash and your arms enter the cabinet with elbows at 90° angles, arms pits level with the bottom of the sash. Use a foot rest if your feet do not touch the floor.
- Discard all waste in a biohazard bag inside the BSC.

After Completing Work in a BSC

- Do NOT turn cabinet OFF while removing items and decontaminating the cabinet.
- Close and surface decontaminate ALL containers and lab materials before removal.
- Surface decontaminate the exterior of the biohazard waste bag/container before removal and disposal.
- Decontaminate cabinet interior, including sidewalls, back wall, inside of sash and work surface.
- Remove the gloves you were using in the BSC and dispose of them according to your laboratory SOP.
- Turn fluorescent light