

Eye Protection Policy

It is the responsibility of the laboratory workers to use proper protective equipment when working in the lab. The guidelines set forth by the University of Colorado Denver must be adhered to at all times when working with hazardous materials that may cause injuries to the eye.

Types of Exposures:

- Appropriate eye protection is required when exposed to splashes from liquid chemicals and cleaning products such as bleach, acids or caustics, chemical gases or vapors, and when there is a risk of exposure to blood borne pathogens and radioactive materials.
 - There is a risk of infectious disease by ocular exposure. This can happen in a number of ways; such as infected blood being splashed into the eye or transfer of contamination from unwashed hands.
 - These types of exposures to the eye can lead to injuries such as corneal abrasion and conjunctivitis (red eye) or chemical splashes and burns.

Appropriate Eye Protection:

Safety Glasses

- The most common type of eye protection is the use of safety glasses. Safety glasses are impact resistant and can help protect the eyes from working with particles, flying objects, and minimal chemical splashes. Safety glasses are required when working with these types of materials and glasses with side protection are the most appropriate.
 - To ensure proper fit of safety glasses make sure they are snug and that there are no large gaps between the edge of the glasses and the face. Also make sure that the glasses are in good shape for maximum protection.
 - If you require prescription lenses, safety glasses must be designed to fit over prescription eyewear, or be specially designed to have prescription lenses.

Safety Goggles

- Safety goggles are also an essential device for the safety of your eyes. Goggles are required when there is a danger of splashing chemicals. Goggles are stronger than safety glasses; they have greater particle protection and are better at protecting against chemical splashes.

Face Shield

- A face shield goes beyond just eye protection. It is used in the added protection of the face and in conjunction with safety glasses and/or goggles. A face shield is used when working with potentially explosive chemicals, and mixing strong acids and caustics.

Even if you are wearing the appropriate eye protection, there is still a chance of getting something into your eye. In the event of contamination to the eye go to the nearest eyewash and flush eyes for 15-30 minutes, keeping eyes open during the wash. Have a co-worker notify your lab supervisor, or in the event of severe contamination call 911. Your lab manager and PI must be immediately notified about any injuries that may occur in the laboratory. Incidents must be reported to [Risk Management](#) within 4 business days.