



Working Safely in Your Biological Safety Cabinet



Do Not Confuse Biosafety Cabinets with Laminar Flow Cabinets

Biosafety cabinets and laminar flow cabinets can look very similar but the latter only protect samples inside the work zone from external airborne contamination and do not protect the operator. Read the labeling on your cabinet carefully before proceeding.



Do Not Use the Cabinet for Agents of Extreme Hazard

The suitability of this cabinet for your application should be ascertained by an industrial hygienist or your safety officers. DO NOT use this cabinet with any toxic, flammable, or explosive materials.



Do Not Operate the Cabinet if Any of the Alarms are Activated

Call your Local Representative for immediate service.



A Bunsen Burner Should Not Be Used

The resulting buoyancy effects will affect cabinet airflow and containment. When absolutely necessary, low pilot light type electric burners may be used.



Do Not Use the Cabinet as a Storage Area

Overloading the cabinet with unnecessary items can affect cabinet airflow and containment.



Proper Cabinet Location is Critical

External airflow disturbances (doors, excessive human traffic, windows, diffusers, air conditioner outlets) can compromise containment.



Always Operate the Unit Continuously

To maintain the airflow barrier and prevent contaminants from escaping.



Minimize Disturbances to Airflow Barrier

Work in a controlled and steady manner, avoiding rapid movements.



The Cabinet Must Be Certified Annually

This ensures cabinet airflows and containment factors are within safe limits. The cabinet should also be re-certified if it is physically relocated to ensure no filter damage has occurred.



Observe Surface Decontamination

Decontaminate work zone with cleaning agents after every use. Germicidal UV-lamps are not a substitute for good cleaning practices.



Allow for Purge Cycles

Leave the blower on before and after use to purge the work zone of any contaminants.



Observe Correct Sash Opening Height

Always set the sash to the work height when working in the cabinet.



Only Trained Personnel Should Use the Cabinet

Access control provisions (key switch and/or passcode protection feature) are standard features on most Esco cabinets.



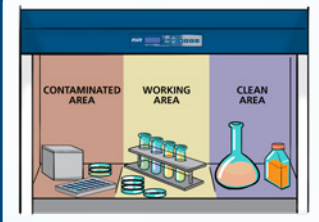
Wear Proper Work Attire

Wearing a lab coat (to protect the operator from splashes) as well as double gloving (over the cuffs) should be practiced.



Work Within the Safe Areas

DO NOT obstruct any of the air grilles in the front or back of the work zone. Work as deep into the work zone as possible.



Observe Proper Aseptic Technique

Plan your work before starting and place all items inside the cabinet before use (this avoids having to take your arms out from the work zone which disturbs the air barrier). Always work from "clean" to "dirty", segregating contaminated and non-contaminated materials.

