

Welcome to the Winter Quarter at PSU!

Laboratory Hot Plate Safety Tips:
(From the Chemical Hygiene Committee)

- Always check equipment prior to use. Do not use if the electrical cord is damaged. Clean heating surface prior to turning on the device.
- Make sure glassware intended to be used with hot plate is heat-resistant and undamaged prior to use.
- Do not overfill your glassware and be sure that you are using the appropriate sized vessel for your task.
- Never fill glassware over $\frac{1}{2}$ full.
- Use tongs or heat-resistant gripping devices/gloves when removing or adjusting items on hot plate.
- Remember that rapid temperature changes can cause glassware to crack. Cool items slowly.
- Use appropriate ventilation, such as a fume hood.
- When done using the hot plate always turn off and unplug it.



The Micro Gram

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Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for the laboratory

Protective eyewear

Long hair tied back

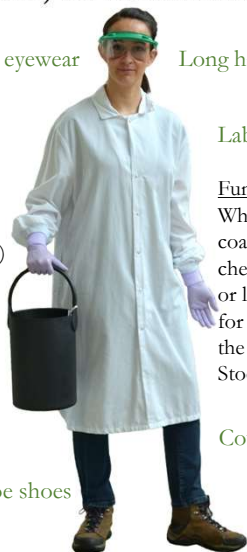
Gloves
(when applicable)

Lab coat

Fun Fact:
White lab coats can be checked out or laundered for free from the Chemistry Stockrooms

Covered legs

Closed-toe shoes



Upcoming Lab Safety Training
(provided by the Chemistry Stockroom staff):

January 18th 10:00am-1:00pm
& February 22nd 9:00am-12:00pm

Sign up: [Safety Training form](#)



Lessons Learned

[Peroxide Explosion Injures Campus Researcher](#)



SAFETY

IS PART OF
SCIENCE

An undergraduate student researcher (at another university) was working at the laboratory bench when the apparatus she was using exploded, sending glass fragments into her face and upper torso. The researcher was using a rotary evaporator (rotovap) to remove organic solvents from an azobenzene precipitate.

What was the cause of the explosion?

Most likely, the explosion was caused by peroxide contaminants in the solvents that had concentrated to the point of being unstable.

How can incidents like this be prevented?

- Manage peroxide forming chemicals properly.
- Limit chemical purchases and store properly.
- Make sure safety training is taken annually.
- Always date containers of peroxide formers with the date received and the date opened.
- Dispose of old peroxide forming chemicals.
- Wear proper personal protective equipment.
- Work behind a safety sash.
- Know where the emergency eyewash and safety shower are.

[Need to report a lab incident?](#)



Upcoming Winter Term Events

- [Lester Newman Seminar Series](#) (presented by the Biology Dept) occurs every Thursday at 12 pm in SRTC room 247
- [Chemistry Department Seminar Series](#) occurs every Friday at 3:15 pm in SB1 room 107
- [Physics Department Seminar Series](#) occurs every Wednesday at 3:15 pm in SB1 room 107
- [The ESM department and the Association of Environmental Science Students \(AEES\)](#) Seminar Series occurs every Friday at 3:00 pm in SRTC B1-82

Light refreshments provided at all Seminar Series

- [Portland Winter Light Festival](#) will take place on parts of the PSU campus on February 7-9th



New last Fall!

Please test out the new [Undergraduate Laboratory Safety Training on D2L](#). It can be found under the Self-Registration tab. Please participate and provide feedback.



Have a suggestion for a lab safety topic?

Email: lindsah@pdx.edu



Click on hyperlinks to learn more

News from Environmental Health & Safety at PSU
<https://www.pdx.edu/environmental-health-safety/>