

EMERGENCY EYEWASH AND SHOWER EQUIPMENT

(For assistance, please contact EHS at (402) 472-4925, or visit our web site at <http://ehs.unl.edu/>)

Emergency eyewash stations and showers are not substitutes for eye and face protection and protective clothing.

Location

Emergency showers and eyewash stations are required in chemical, biological, and radioactive laboratories. They are also required in shop areas where hazardous chemicals are used and/or acid batteries are charged. Eyewash stations and emergency showers should be located within 10 seconds unobstructed travel of the hazard; preferably within the laboratory/shop/work area; and preferably within 10 feet of the hazard.

Design

Units must comply with ANSI standards. Eyewash stations must feature hands free operation and provide 15 minutes of continuous flow at 0.4 gallons per minute. Showers must feature hands free operation and deliver 30 gallons per minute. Hand-held drench hoses may be used in conjunction with safety showers and eyewash stations, but are not a substitute for safety showers or eyewash stations. Additional design specifications include:

- Location should be well lit, highly visible, and marked with a highly visible sign.
- Sewer connection or drain is not required, but does facilitate testing (particularly eyewash stations).
- Units shall be installed in accordance with manufacturer's instructions. Eyewash nozzles should be 83.8 to 114.3 cm (33 to 45 inches) from floor
- Mount showers overhead with head height 208.3 to 243.8 cm (82 to 96 inches) from floor or platform and the valve actuator less than or equal to 173.3 cm (69 inches) above the floor or platform
- Tepid water supply is recommended (but cold only is acceptable if tepid supply is not feasible).
- Portable units to be used only where fixed installation is not feasible. Self-contained and portable units must provide 1.5 liters per minute (0.4 gallons per minute) for 15 minutes (equals six-gallon capacity).

Maintenance

- Flush eyewash stations weekly. Test showers regularly.
- Keep covers for eyewash nozzles in place to protect from dust and debris.