



# Laboratory Chemical Hood Use Guide

## Using Heated Perchloric Acid?

Perchloric acid hoods are built with special safety features.

Contact DEHS for guidance.

(502) 852-6670

## Report malfunctions to:

### Belknap Physical Plant

(502) 852-6241

### HSC Physical Plant

(502) 852-5695

**Repeatedly malfunctioning  
or request airflow test: DEHS**

(502) 852-6670

## Safety Contacts

### Environmental Health and Safety

(502) 852-6670

### Occ. Health and Safety Manager

(502) 852-2948

### University of Louisville Police Dept.

Non-Life Threatening (502) 852-6111

## DEHS Tests Airflow for Free!

### Best Practices

- Check airflow gauge and/or flow ribbon before use to ensure the hood is drawing air
- Set sash height to indicated optimal working height (18”).
- Work at least 6” inside the hood face.
- Keep hood storage to a minimum, including obstructions to front and back grills, to minimize airflow disruption.
- Minimize local foot traffic, open windows, fans, or open incubators/fridges/freezers during use to reduce turbulence or escape of vapors from the hood.
- Use extreme caution with ignition sources.
- Contact DEHS if your hood is beyond one year from last air flow inspection date.

### FAQs Answered

- Biological safety cabinets and tissue culture hoods are not the same as chemical hoods.
- Not all chemical hoods can be used with radioisotopes. Contact Radiation Safety (502) 852-5231 for assistance.
- Silencing airflow alarms is not a best practice.
- Every part of a chemical hood is important to operation; do not remove or alter components!

**DIAL 9-1-1  
for Fire or Life-Threatening Emergency**

**Always wear proper PPE when working in a chemical hood!**