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Safety *first*

BRINGING A SAFETY WORKPLACE TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE CHEMISTRY BUILDING

Labcoat Laundering

As of early 2023 we have a second option for laundering labcoats, Morgan Services, which only have a one week turnaround (our prior option had a one month turnaround).

For both laundering options the labcoats can be bagged and dropped off in the appropriate boxes in the hallway outside of room 1612. You will also need to fill out a form prior to dropping off the labcoats.

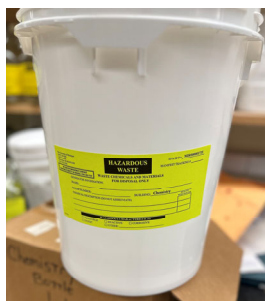
If you need a copy or link to the form for either laundering option please contact Chris Peters at chrpeter@umich.edu.



Waste Reminders

Many of the waste issues we find in labs are the same throughout the building so please remember the following:

- All waste needs to be properly labeled, the label should include ALL chemicals that are in the waste container. Be specific, generic terms like “Organic Waste” or “Aqueous Waste” are not acceptable.



- Needles should ONLY be disposed of in properly labeled sharps container and never be disposed of in a hazardous waste pail.
- Liquid waste should never be put in solid waste pails. If you have vials or small containers of liquid for disposal, the liquid should be emptied into a liquid waste bottle and then the empty vial disposed of in the solid waste pail.

Lessons Learned

Syringe Breakage

We have had a noticeable increase in the last six months of chemical exposures caused by needles becoming detached from the syringe.

There is not a singular reason for these accidents. Instead the reasons for these detachments range from a clogged syringe to the needle not being put on correctly. In most of these cases though when the syringe detaches it cause some of the liquid to spray out and get in the users eyes and/or face. Luckily none of these injuries have caused permanent harm but several incidents caused people to seek medical attention at the ER.

Due to the higher risk of eye exposure, it is highly recommended that goggles be used instead of safety glasses for any experiment involving injecting liquid through a syringe.

Additionally, earlier this year the ACS published recommendations for safe handling of cannulas and needles in chemistry laboratories. If you are using needles or cannulas in your lab please read through it. This paper can be found at the link below:

<https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acs.chas.1c00069>



Lessons Learned

Coolant Flood

In the early morning a janitor discovered a lab covered in bright pink liquid. The incident was caused by a hose clamp being tightened too much and breaking over time. This caused the coolant hose to partially pop off and leak into the room. Unfortunately this hose was attached to a glycol loop that went to all of our laser labs and held approximately 600 gallons of propylene glycol. It was estimated 100 –150 gallons of the solution to leak which subsequently leaked onto the floors below.

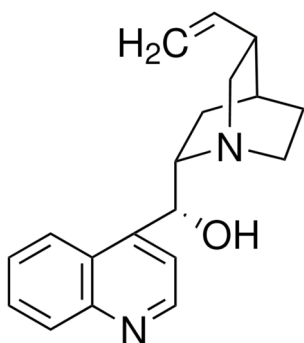
Please make it part of your labs routine checks to regularly check any fittings attached to coolant or water lines in your lab. This will help try to catch issues before they cause a flood and damage your equipment.



Chemical Exposure

A graduate student was performing a large scale reaction using 150g of cinchonidine. After the student had the reaction running, they removed their PPE. Shortly after, they moved some of the glassware out of their hood with ungloved hands. After approximately 20 minutes, the student began feeling itching and burning sensation on their hand. The student rinsed their hands for a prolonged period of time and the itching went away. The likely reason for this is that some of the powdery cinchonidine was left on the glassware and got on their hand when they moved it ungloved.

Luckily this chemical exposure was not serious, however, this incident shows the importance of wearing PPE whenever you are in a wetlab and that you should assume all items in a wetlab are potentially contaminated and need to be handled with gloves.



Prescription Safety Glasses

Just a reminder to everyone that the Chemistry Department and University have a program to give out free prescription safety glasses to those that need them. Please remember that your normal glasses CANNOT be worn in place of safety glasses.

- Undergraduates, Temp Workers and visiting scholars are not eligible for this program

To get a voucher for prescription safety glasses please send an email to Christopher Peters (chrpeter@umich.edu) with the following information:

- Full Name:
- UMID Number:
- Group Name:
- Phone Number:
- Position (Grad Student, Postdoc, Staff):
- Are you on a Fellowship?:

UPCOMING INSPECTION

Always Be Ready!



Campus recently had another EGLE (formerly DEQ) Inspection looking at waste. We were not part of the inspection this time but we are due for another one in the near future. We also have many other agencies (DEA, MiOSHA, EPA, etc) that may inspect our labs with little or no notice. Always keep your lab clean and safe.

Welcome Ron Farnstrom -



As many of you know, our shipping and receiving person for the last three years, Christopher Bluteau, recently left the department to pursue his masters degree.

We are excited to welcome our new shipping and receiving person, Ronald Farnstrom, to the department. Ron comes to us from Michigan Medicine and will be in charge of shipping samples/packages as well as receiving deliveries and dropping them off to your lab.

To contact Ron please email him at romafa@umich.edu.

Dry Ice/LN2

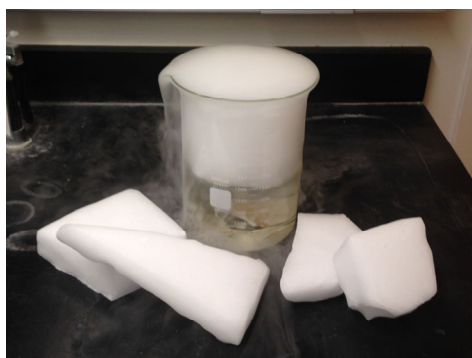
Dry Ice

Dry ice is available everyday from the cooler outside of room A602 in the basement.

Liquid Nitrogen

Department dewars are accessible 24 hours a day outside of room A602 for small (under 15L) liquid nitrogen quantities.

Large dewars of liquid nitrogen can be ordered by emailing chrpeter@umich.edu by noon one business day before its needed.



Contact Information

Package Shipping

Ronald Farnstrom — romafa@umich.edu
Phone—615-5034

Waste Issues

Kacey Vaughn— vkacey@umich.edu
Phone 764-7325

Safety Issues/Concerns

Christopher Peters—chrpeter@umich.edu
Phone—763-4527

Tracy Stevenson—steventi@umich.edu
Phone—764-7316

Chemical Inventory Questions

Anson Pesek—ahpesek@umich.edu
Phone—647-8932

Maintenance Requests

Routine Work Request Form on Chemistry Intranet

Baby Henry Wants You To Be Safe

