

Emergency Eyewash and Shower Instructions

Immediately use an emergency eyewash if your eyes are exposed to a biological, chemical, or hazardous agent and an emergency shower if your skin is exposed to a biological, chemical, or hazardous agent.

The first few seconds after exposure to a biological, chemical (especially a corrosive chemical), or hazardous agent are critical. Delaying treatment, even for a few seconds, may result in irreparable damage. Do not hesitate! Drains are not always provided, but don't let that stop you from using the equipment when needed. Call FIXIT (77301) as soon as possible to collect water where drains are not installed.

Note: Some eyewashes and showers may run discolored (rusty) water for a few seconds. Don't let this prevent you from using them immediately when needed.

To use emergency eyewash:

- Immediately flush eyes for at least 15 minutes. It is advisable to continue using the eyewash for as long as possible until medical help arrives.
- If you have contact lenses, gently remove them while flushing.
- Hold your eyes open with your fingers.
- Keep the eyes open and rotate eyeballs in all directions to remove contamination from around the eyes. An injured person may need help holding the eyelids open.
- Seek medical attention immediately.
- Have someone bring or fax the Safety Data Sheet (formerly called Material Safety Data Sheet) for the biological or chemical agent to the doctor.
- Report the injury or exposure.

To use an emergency shower:

- Immediately flush the affected area with copious amounts of water for at least 15 minutes. It is advisable to stay in the shower for as long as possible until medical help arrives.
- Protect the eyes from the stream of water, the rate of discharge is enough to cause damage, and avoid inadvertent contamination. If the biological or chemical agent gets in your eyes, remove contact lenses if you wear them and use an eyewash station. Ideally a combination safety shower and eyewash unit should be used in situations where both the skin and eyes have been contaminated.
- Remove contaminated clothing, jewelry, and shoes. Do not let modesty slow you down. Every second counts. Use a clean lab coat to provide the victim with privacy and warmth.
- Seek medical attention immediately.
- Have someone bring or fax the Safety Data Sheet (formerly called Material Safety Data Sheet) for the biological or chemical agent to the doctor.
- Report the injury or exposure.

Call or email the Department of Environmental Health and Safety for general inquiries at x32999 or safety@queensu.ca