Biosafety cabinet disinfection
Biosafety cabinets

- Found in laboratories where work with biological materials is performed.
- Minimizes lab personnel to exposure of aerosols or droplets of infectious agents or toxins.
- Protects the researcher, the sample and the environment.
Most biosafety cabinets use ultraviolet lamps.

- UV lights were a preferred lighting method for biosafety cabinets.

  - Studies show several limitations of UV light.
The Centers for Disease Control and the National Institutes of Health do not recommend UV lights for use in biosafety cabinets:

- Germicidal effect of the UV light decreases over time.
- Lamps require cleaning to remove dust and dirt.
- UV light does not reach a covered workspace.
- UV light is not effective against all types of biohazards.
1. Disinfect the interior surfaces with an appropriate disinfectant.

2. Spray all of the internal surfaces and allow for the appropriate contact time.

3. Wipe the disinfectant with a clean paper towel. Be careful your head does not enter the cabinet. If using a corrosive disinfectant such as 10 percent bleach, follow with a wipe of 70 percent ethanol.
EHS biosafety cabinet links

Biosafety cabinet training video

Decontamination guidelines

How to safely use a biosafety cabinet

Standard operating procedures for biosafety cabinets

Use of Ultraviolet Lights in Biological Safety Cabinets: A Contrarian View

If you have any questions, email ASU Safety Partners or call 480-965-1823.