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.
Disinfecting a biosafety cabinet

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

Decontamination guidelines

Standard operating procedures for biosafety cabinets

How to safely use a biosafety cabinet video

Biosafety cabinet training video

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

If you have any questions, email EHS or call 480-965-1823.