

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.

Ultraviolet light not recommended

Most biosafety cabinets use ultraviolet lamps.

- UV lights were a preferred lighting method for biosafety cabinets.
 - Studies show several limitations of UV light.



Ultraviolet light not recommended

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

[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 EHS](#) or call 480-965-1823.