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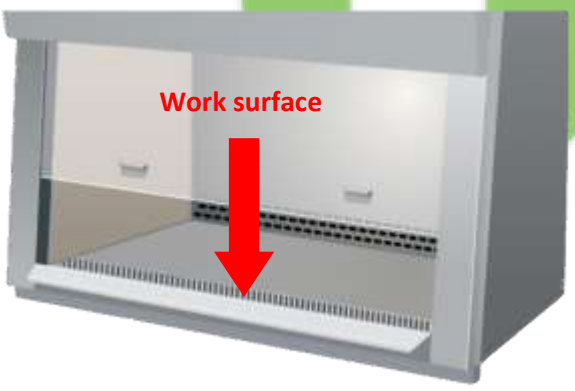
BIOSAFETY NEWS

BSC Buildup

Contamination problems and inadvertent personnel exposure to biohazardous materials can occur through failure to routinely clean beneath the BSC's work surface and front grills. Many people are not even aware that is possible to clean this area of their cabinet!

There are differences in how to access this area, depending on the make and model of your BSC. Consult your user manual or contact the Dept. of Biological Safety if you need assistance with this.

Ensure that all personnel utilizing a BSC are knowledgeable about the catch pans and, if applicable, installed drain valves underneath the BSC. We have encountered labs wherein personnel had no idea their drain valves were left open. Had there been a spill of infectious materials inside the BSC, a release of infectious ...(cont.)



Inside this issue

materials outside of the cabinet through the open drain valve could have occurred. Make sure your drain is closed!

Routine maintenance of your BSC, including cleaning and disinfection under the work surface, can keep you safe and your materials uncontaminated. Even a little bit of spilled uninoculated cell culture media hiding out in your front grill or catch pan could encourage mold growth. Buildup of materials can also disrupt or block proper laminar air flow. Last but not least, be sure to wear proper PPE and use an efficacious disinfectant (with consecutive follow up for residue removal). Cleaning your front grills, catch pan, sides, rear, interior face of the glass sash, and work surface is part of properly maintaining your BSC.

(left and top): Examples of buildup of materials under the BSC work surface from our campus. Did anyone lose a Sharpie?

(above) Examples of different ways to access under front grills and surfaces, depending on the model of BSC.

Biosafety Reminder:

Our campus experienced a series of thefts in a research building recently due to lack of locked doors. Don't let this happen to you!

UK Environmental Health & Safety policy stipulates that all doors to laboratories where there are chemicals, biological hazards or radiological materials in use or storage must remain closed at all times and locked when unattended. Our campus experienced a series of thefts in a research building recently due to lack of locked doors. Don't let this happen to you!

If your research involves the use of animals, be advised!

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and National Science Foundation (NSF) require congruency between the proposed scope of work in an awarded grant and the approved Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) protocol prior to accepting an award. Because an Institutional Biosafety Committee (IBC) registration for research must be approved before an IACUC protocol may be approved, this also effects IBC registrations.

What this means is there is a new coordination process between the IACUC, IBC and the Office of Sponsored Projects (OSPA) that includes a congruency review. Congruency between research described in IBC and IACUC protocols must be achieved before any funds are released! Please keep this in mind when submitting your protocols or amendments to the IBC. **Please remember** to use consistent terminology (ex: viral vector names, gene names, plasmid names, transgenic animal lines) in all applications to prevent delays in approvals.

The Dept. of Biological Safety would like to thank the following labs for setting a shining example of lab housekeeping and maintenance. Well done!

SPEAR, B.
(COMbS)

SPRINGER, J.
(Med Sci)

Schaffer, C.
(Gluck)

Graf, G.
(TODD)

Garcia, E.
(Med SCI)

Geddes, J.
(BBSRB)

Slime Lapse

Click on the image to navigate directly to a 5 minute "bioGraphic" video on the characteristics of unicellular slime mold, complete with time lapse footage from Rutgers University.

Link:
https://youtu.be/olCEGsKWQ3c

University of Kentucky

Department of Biological Safety
505 Oldham Court
Lexington, Kentucky 40502

Fax: 859-323-3838
E-mail: biosafety@uky.edu

Brandy Nelson……859-257-1049
Biological Safety Officer

Holley Trucks……859-257-8655
Asst. Biological Safety Officer

Eric Rouse……859-323-5728
Sr. Biological Safety Specialist

Delena Mazzetti ……859-257-1073
Sr. Biological Safety Specialist

Taylor Johnson……859-323-7345
Sr. Data Coordinator

As part of the Division of Environmental Health & Safety, the Department of Biological Safety is responsible for programs concerning the safe use of recombinant and synthetic nucleic acids, infectious agents, and potentially infectious materials such as human sourced materials in the research and teaching laboratories at the University of Kentucky. This includes training, auditing, and consulting with researchers, laboratory personnel and teaching staff concerning compliance with the federal and state laws and regulations in these areas.

Visit us on the web!
http://ehs.uky.edu/biosafety/