

Emergency Eyewash Stations

Operation

1. Immediately after material enters your eyes you should make your way to the eyewash station. The victim should seek assistance getting to the station, since working alone is not permitted. Even if you believe the contact is minor you should complete a thorough flush.
2. Activate the unit by pushing the activation lever. Upon activation, the dust cover or covers will either come off or open and the eyewash will begin discharging water.
3. Stand directly in front of the eyewash and place your eyes in the water stream. Use your fingers to hold your eyelids open and gently roll your eyes up and down and side to side. This ensures maximum eyeball rinse.
4. Contact lenses should be removed once the rinsing process has begun. Failing to remove them prevents the eyes from being rinsed thoroughly.
5. It will take 15-20 minutes of rinsing to completely wash out any chemicals that may be in your eyes. If you stop rinsing before this time, permanent injury may occur.
6. Seek medical attention immediately. Have someone drive you to the Student Health Clinic or Hospital Emergency Room following the completion of eyewash rinse.

Requirements and Maintenance

1. Eyewashes should be located within 10 seconds (55 feet) of possible areas of exposure and the path to the eyewash must not be obstructed.
2. The eyewash must provide hands-free operation by pushing a lever or foot pedal to start dispensing water.
3. The temperature of the water should be between 60-100° F, provide continuous flow of at least 0.4 liters per minute for at least 15 minutes.
4. The location of the eyewash must be in a clearly marked and well-lit area.
5. Eyewashes must be activated and flushed weekly to prevent contamination and ensure function.

Important Note

1. Sink faucets, including those that are faucet mounted units, water hoses or showers are not considered proper substitutes for eyewash stations.
2. Portable eyewash bottles should only be used for immediate flushing until the victim reaches a proper eyewash station.
3. Ensure students and employees are properly trained in the use of the eyewash station.