



FACT SHEET

Date: July 21, 2008

COLD & WARM ROOM SAFETY

This room continuously recirculates the air and there is no mechanically supplied or exhausted ventilation. This design feature mandates special attention to safety and health issues.

CHEMICAL USE & STORAGE:

- Don't store dry ice, liquid nitrogen, or gases (other than compressed breathing air): to do so may displace oxygen and cause an asphyxiation hazard.
- If compressed gas use is essential, contact the EHS Department about identifying the correct oxygen or gas sensor and local alarm. Post the alarm procedure and train all room users to it.
- Don't use mercury-containing thermometers or equipment. Even a broken thermometer can result in an inhalation hazard.
- Don't use or store flammable solvents. Their vapors can accumulate, creating an explosive atmosphere, which can be ignited by electrical switches or other ignition sources.
- Don't use hazardous or volatile chemicals (e.g., chloroform, carcinogens, reproductive toxins or acutely toxic chemicals): use them in a chemical fume hood to prevent personal exposure.
- Don't use volatile acids which can corrode metal.
- Don't store food and beverage, which may become contaminated.

MOLD PREVENTION:

- Improper work practices and inadequate housekeeping may result in mold growth that can contaminate research materials. Mold spores can also be carried and spread to other areas outside the room.
- Report water leaks or condensation on surfaces to the Facilities Department.
- Close and latch the door to minimize condensation from air leakage.
- Remove all wood, cardboard, cloth, and paper (e.g., shelves, boxes, pallets), which support mold growth. If your research requires use of any of these materials, remove them from the room immediately after your experiment.
- Keep surfaces clean. Wipe down your work surface after every use. Promptly clean spilled media, buffers, and other liquids and thoroughly dry surfaces after cleaning.
- If minimal mold is present, use wet cleaning methods with a disinfectant (including Wescodyne, but excluding concentrated bleach that can damage metal), and thoroughly dry surfaces after cleaning. Dry sweeping may disturb and distribute mold spores. If extensive mold is present, contact Facilities, which may hire a mold remediation firm.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY:

- If there is condensation or the environment is wet (e.g.: within 6 feet of a sink), use a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI).
- Ensure that exposed or protruding light bulbs are guarded to prevent breakage.

Contact the Environmental Health & Safety Department if you have questions about safe work practices or conditions.