


WORK PROCEDURE: HANDLING OF DROPS AND SINK TRAPS IN LABORATORIES			NUMBER: WP-46
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APPLICATION:

This procedure outlines the minimum recommended requirements to follow in handling and repair of sink traps at Western University laboratories.

BACKGROUND:

Research laboratories utilize a wide variety of biological, chemical, and radioactive substances. Work with these materials is usually performed in a specially designated area in the laboratory or the fume hood (or biosafety cabinet). Hazardous waste is usually generated as an end product of research; this must be packaged, labeled properly, and submitted to Occupational Health and Safety for proper disposal.

Chemical residue from glassware wash or accidental spills may accumulate in sink traps in chemical laboratories. As appropriate, the following procedure should be adhered to:

PROCEDURE:

When maintenance work is to be performed in any sink trap / plumbing, the following steps must be followed:

1. FM Manager must determine the scope of work and evaluate the potential hazards; Occupational Health & Safety and the laboratory supervisor may be consulted prior to the commencement of work. All hazardous materials within ten feet of affected area must be removed by the research group prior to any work.
2. Visually inspect the sink and drain for any salt accumulation, signs of corrosion, discoloration, or noticeable sediment accumulation.
3. Wear Personal Protective Equipment as outlined below.
4. Remove water from sink and trap and collect in a grounded container and submit to Occupational Health and Safety for identification and disposal.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:

For maintenance activities involving the repair of chemical laboratories sink traps, the following personal protective equipment should be worn:

- Nitrile gloves, 12 mil and minimum 13" length
- Safety glasses; goggles are preferred for overhead work or if splash or aerosol is expected.
- Protective coveralls, i.e., Tyvek suit
- Half face respirator equipped with multi-purpose cartridges.

Do not mix contents of different sink traps together as an incompatible reaction may occur.