

EMERGENCY EYEWASH EQUIPMENT

It is important to recognize that emergency eyewash stations are not a substitute for proper PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE). Occupants must always wear eye, face and hand protection with protective clothing that is appropriate for the hazard.

- ✚ Activate the eyewash station **WEEKLY** to verify *proper operation* and to flush the system. This operational check is to be recorded on a tag attached to the unit or in a log kept near the unit.
- ✚ Plumbed eyewash must be activated at least **Monthly** to flush the line and to verify *proper operation*. Other units should be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Inspect the eyewash station **ANNUALLY** for compliance.
- ✚ Keep the basin **clean** and free of trash or debris.

Annual Eyewash Inspection Checklist

1. There is a controlled, low velocity flow of water that rinses both eyes without causing injury.
2. Spray heads are protected from airborne contaminants.
3. Spray head protection is removed / released without a separate motion when activated.
4. Valve actuator is easy to locate, simple to use, opens in **1 second or less**, and stays open until intentionally shut off.
5. Unit delivers at least **0.4 gallons per minute (1.5 liters)** for **15 minutes**. The water temperature is tepid (lukewarm).
6. All units are activated weekly to check for proper operation and to flush the system.
7. All employees are instructed in the location and proper use of the eyewash. The station should be within **10 seconds** of travel time, or **50 feet** from where you use chemicals.
8. Eye Wash Stations **should not be blocked**. Keep a clear pathway and ensure the stations frequently inspected and ALWAYS accessible and clean.

How To Flush Eyes

1. Go Immediately to the Eyewash Station – Don't Waste a Second!

If a chemical splashes in your eyes, time is of the essence. GO immediately to the eyewash station. Get help walking to the eyewash station from a coworker.

2. Push the Lever to Activate the Unit

3. Push the lever- The unit will activate with one single motion. The dust covers will pop off and the flushing fluid will begin to flow out from the faucet heads.

4. Begin to Flush- Get your eyes directly in the stream of the flushing fluid- Immediately!

5. Hold Your Eyes Open with Your Fingers - Keep your eyes open by holding your eyelids apart with your fingers. The unit should be hands free so that you do not have to hold the lever open. Once activated, the unit should stay on.

6. Roll Your Eyes- Gently roll your eyes from left to right and up and down to be sure that the fluid is flushing all the areas of your eye.

7. Flush for a Full Fifteen Minutes- Continue Flushing your eyes for a full 15 minutes.

This is important because you want to fully dilute the chemical and wash it out of your eyes. Any time less than 15 minutes is NOT enough time to accomplish this.

8. Remove Contacts- If you have contact lenses in your eyes, you can gently take them out while you are flushing. Do NOT delay the flushing to take out your lenses but make sure that you take them out because they could trap the chemical in your eyes. It is not recommended to use contacts lenses when working with hazardous materials.

9. Seek Medical Attention - After you have flushed, see a doctor to determine if anything more needs to be done for the preservation of your vision.