



WEEKLY EYEWASH FLUSHING

To ensure a properly-functioning eyewash station with clean water in the event of an emergency--laboratories, studios, shops, and any other locations must flush their eyewash station (or combination eye wash/drench hose) weekly. This is necessary not only to verify function—but also to prevent the accumulation of sediment and particulates, or harborage of potentially pathogenic bacteria or protozoa. When performing a weekly eyewash flush, check the following:

- ▶ **Access and signage:** Ensure that the eyewash station is easily identifiable and unobstructed. Carts, chairs, glassware and equipment can all obstruct an eyewash station, which may slow the response in the event of an emergency. If you have to use an eyewash station in an emergency you won't be able to see well!
- ▶ **Operation** Ensure that the eyewash station activates easily with one-handed control, the flow removes eyepiece covers, and water flows evenly and in a steady stream.
- ▶ **Water** Allow the eyewash station to run for 3 minutes to flush stagnant water from the line. If this is your first time flushing the station, you may have to run it longer to ensure that the water is clean.
- ▶ **Replace the eyepiece covers.** Reposition the eyepiece covers and wipe the device clean.

[NOTE: Report Malfunctioning Eyewash Stations to BSU Work Control At 285-5081]

Helpful hints:

- **Make sure you know where the water drains!** Often a bucket or a tray has to be positioned under the unit's drain to collect the water.
- **Have a roll of paper towels on hand** in case of water leakage.
- **A large tray may be needed to collect the water** under units that pull down from the wall to activate.
- **Dispose of the rinse water to a sink drain.**



Eye Wash



Combination
Eyewash/Drench Hose

If you have questions or if you are unable to flush your eyewash station, contact the Environmental Health and Safety Office. The EHS Office routinely checks the operation of eyewashes and flushes them, but cannot perform the necessary flushing and inspection on a weekly basis.