



## GLOVE AND LAB COAT USE IN COMMON AREAS

### **1. Purpose:**

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The purpose of this SOP is to provide instruction on glove and lab coat usage in common areas.

### **2. Scope:**

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This SOP applies to all personnel who use gloves and lab coats.

### **3. Responsibilities:**

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It is the responsibility of all lab personnel to follow this SOP.

### **4. Procedure:**

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#### **Glove and Lab Coats in Common Areas:**

When you are seen wearing gloves or a lab coat in the hallway, elevators, washrooms, the general public perception is that you have been handling something that is possibly harmful to humans. Furthermore, if you have been working with or handling potentially harmful materials, your gloves or lab coat may be contaminated, and you may not even know it.

1. Gloves should never touch door handles, elevator buttons, telephones, or any surfaces outside of the laboratory.
2. It is critical to remove all PPE, including gloves and lab coats when leaving areas where any hazardous materials that may have contaminated the PPE are used. This includes hazardous chemicals, radiation, nanoparticles, biohazards, or other potentially hazardous materials.
3. All PPE, including gloves and lab coats, must be removed before exiting the laboratory (see exceptions, bullets 4 & 5). This prevents any possible contamination of "clean" areas such as restrooms, elevators, offices, and eating areas.
4. During hazardous waste disposal, to transport hazardous materials to the holding room on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor riding in the freight elevator, wearing the lab coat is allowed outside the lab and the **one glove rule**.
5. When transporting hazardous material from one lab to another, wearing the lab coat is allowed outside the lab and the **one glove rule** (see procedure below)

## Transporting Hazardous Materials Between Labs:

- To transport hazardous material between labs, use effective secondary containment.  
NOTE: Secondary containment must be plastic, securely sealed, and chemically resistant type containers.



- This will allow your hands to be free from exposure to any hazardous material, eliminating your need to wear gloves or a lab coat. Transporting chemicals in this manner also minimizes spills and breakage. You can bring a pair of clean gloves in your pocket and use them to remove the materials from the secondary container once you arrive at your destination.
- If it is not possible to transport by hand, the cart used to transport hazardous material within the corridors should be sturdy and uncontaminated. Lab carts should have an upper lip to minimize accidental tip-over during transport. Clean, absorbent pads should also be placed on the horizontal surface to help absorb any accidental spills during transport.



- If it is not possible to transport materials without gloves, follow the one glove rule: use an UNGLOVED hand to touch common surfaces and a gloved hand to carry hazardous materials.



## Reference

<http://www.cwu.edu/chemistry/glove-and-lab-coat-use-common-areas#Q6>

## Wearing Gloves Outside of the Lab

**Gloves should never touch door handles, elevator buttons, telephones, bathroom faucets, or other common surfaces.**

***Materials should be packaged to allow the outer package to be handled without gloves and should contain the material if it were dropped.***

When transporting chemicals, use carts, bottle carriers, or secondary containment trays.

Carry a pair of clean gloves with you to use when arriving at your destination



If gloves must be used, follow  
**ONE GLOVE RULE**

Use an UNGLOVED hand to touch common surfaces, and a gloved hand (CLEAN GLOVE) to carry hazardous materials outside the laboratory.

