

FUME HOODS ≠ STORAGE CABINETS

Chemical fume hoods help prevent exposure to volatile hazardous chemicals in the lab. The hood works best, though, when it is empty. Everything in the hood disturbs the airflow, so keep extra equipment, chemicals, and other materials to a minimum.

A chemical fume hood usually costs between \$20,000 and \$50,000, depending on features and installation details; some at Homewood cost as much as \$150,000! Additionally, they cost about \$5,000/yr to operate, due to the large amount of expensive conditioned air they exhaust.

A storage cabinet for chemicals costs on the order of \$1,000. JHU is more than willing to help laboratories make more effective use of their storage, store little-used materials elsewhere, and obtain additional storage cabinetry when needed.

If you find yourself having to use your lab's chemical fume hoods as storage cabinets, whether for equipment or for chemicals, you or your principal investigator should contact your department or the Laboratory Safety Advocate for assistance in obtaining proper storage.

TIPS

- Chemical fume hoods are better used for research work than for storage.
- Extra material in a fume hood disturbs the airflow and can increase your chemical exposure.
- The only chemicals that should be stored in a chemical fume hood are small cylinders of toxic gases (which should not be purchased without permission from Health, Safety, and Environment) and (vented) containers of chemical waste that are expected to produce gases that must be exhausted (like Piranha etch).
- If you must, long-term, use a fume hood for storage or research not needing exhaust, contact Facilities to have the hood disabled to save energy.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What unneeded items are taking up space in our chemical fume hoods?
2. To what free storage areas do we have access?
3. What could we dispose or store in long-term storage to make room for items that need current storage?