

Not Rocket Science: A JHU Safety Note

Protect your eyes from chemical hazards

Chemical hazards require eye protection **specifically designed** for chemical hazards.

Many chemicals can cause serious damage or irritation when they get into your eyes. These include, but are not limited to, acids, caustics and solvents. When working with chemical eye hazards, wear **chemical splash goggles** to protect your eyes from:

- **Inadvertent splashes** of liquids into the eyes.
- **Mists** of chemicals occurring during mixing or cleaning processes.
- **Forcefully-propelled liquids** coming from front, back, above or below.

HOW ARE CHEMICAL SPLASH GOGGLES DIFFERENT FROM SAFETY GLASSES?

1. **Chemical splash goggles seal** against the forehead, temples and cheeks to prevent liquid that strikes your face from dripping into your eyes.
2. **Chemical splash goggles are not directly vented.** If they do have vents, they are designed so there is no straight path from the outside to the inside of the goggles, keeping splashes out of your eyes. (Beware of cheap hardware-store goggles that are directly-vented; these are not chemical splash goggles.)

TIPS AND TRICKS FOR USING CHEMICAL SPLASH GOGGLES

- **Always use chemical splash goggles that are also rated for impact protection.** Look for a mark that says “Z87.1” or “Z87.1+”.
- **Wear your safety goggles at all times in the lab**—on your eyes, not on your forehead. You do not have control over all hazards present in the lab.
- **Keep your eye protection clean and free of contamination.** Clean your hands and take off gloves before touching your eyewear, even to adjust it.
- **When cleaning eyewear, follow the manufacturer’s recommendations.** If your chemical splash goggles fog easily, this is often a sign that they need cleaning.
- **Do not purchase the cheapest eyewear available.** Cheap protective eyewear interferes with vision—and discourages you from wearing it.

Vision is one of your most important senses. You only get one pair of eyes, and in an accident, you may have only one chance to protect them.

Finding a pair of goggles that fits is essential, and each person has a differently-shaped face. In a survey of goggle styles, most Homewood researchers found the uvex Stealth or Stealth OTG (Over The Glasses), or the uvex Futura models (all available from Fisher Safety through SAP) most comfortable. The [Homewood Campus Supply Store](#) also sells Sellstrom 88200 goggles, which are often considered less comfortable but are also less expensive.

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