

Queen's University Environmental Health & Safety

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Document No.:
SOP-LAB-05





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\$ Ensure that all pertinent supervisors, employees and students are aware of this SOP and have been informed of the proper use and maintenance of lab coats.

4.2 Responsibilities of Supervisors

Supervisors must be knowledgeable about hazards in their area. They must:

\$ Ensure that all staff and students are aware of the hazards present and have been informed of the proper use, care and maintenance of lab coats.

\$ Ensure that workers wear lab coats at all times in areas where skin contamination hazards exist.

4.3 Responsibilities of Staff and Students

Staff and Students must

\$ Wear lab coats at all times in areas where skin contamination hazards exist

\$ Maintain lab coats in good condition.

5. Lab Coat Material

Material	Splash Resistance/ Chemical Resistance	Flame Resistance	Comfort	Uses/ Comments
Polyester/Cotton Blend Recommended 65%/35% for chemical research lab setting	Splash Resistant Unknown chemical resistance. Better for work with acids than cotton	No Coats with more cotton will burn less readily.	Lightweight, breathable. The more cotton the more breathable.	Good for clinical settings (hospitals, clinical labs) and labs handling biological materials and small amounts of flammables.)
100% Cotton	Not splash resistant or fluid proof. Degraded by acids. More resistant to solvents.	No. Burns less readily than poly/cotton blends.	Lightweight, breathable	Good for labs where acid handling is limited and splash resistance is not a concern, and there is some work with flammables, heat and flame.

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Material	Splash Resistance/ Chemical Resistance	Flame Resistance	Comfort	Uses/ Comments
				Should supplement with an apron for acid handling.
Cotton treated with flame retardant.	Not necessarily fluid proof. Degraded by acids. More resistant to solvents. Not generally tested for chemical resistance.	Yes	No information	Appropriate for lab settings where there may be a significant fire hazard, with an understanding of the limitations of the testing criteria for flame resistance. May be appropriate to supplement with an apron for acid handling. More costly. Will not lose flame resistance with laundering over typical use life of coat No bleach should be used by the laundry service.

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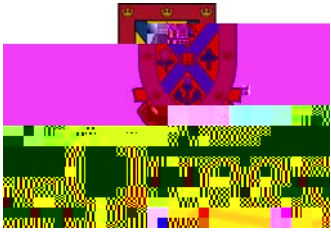


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Material	Splash Resistance/ Chemical Resistance	Flame Resistance	Comfort	Uses/ Comments
Polypropylene lab coat	No	No	Yes	Intended for protection from dirt, grime, dry particulates in relatively non-hazardous environment such as animal handling and clean rooms. Burns readily.
VWR Microbreathe Lab Coat (Disposable)	Splash resistant for blood and body fluids and chemicals.	No	Yes	For clinical and biological lab settings, and some chemical labs. Snap front, so can be readily removed. Not good for settings with significant fire hazard.

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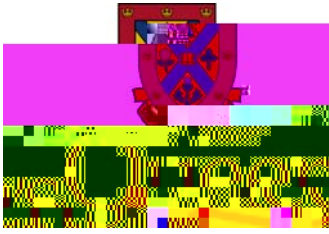
recommended since they can be removed quickly in the event of fire, chemical, radiological or biological spills.

Lab coats must be worn completely buttoned up.

6.2 Lab Coat Pockets and Slits

Coat pockets should be conveniently placed ~~preferably~~ **NOT** with side-slits that allow easy access to any pocket worn underneath.

6.3 Lab Coat Sleeves



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Biohazardous Labs

Lab coats must be worn by all personnel working in any biohazard laboratory.

8. Storage of Lab Coats

- \$ Laboratory clothing must not be stored in contact with street clothing.
- \$ Used lab coats, when not in use, must be stored individually (eg not more than one coat per hook).
- \$ For Undergraduate labs Alternate storage (e.g. turn inside out and store in plastic bag)

9. Cleaning/Laundrying Lab Coats

Lab coats should be cleaned routinely by use of a professional laundry service. If lab coats cannot be decontaminated prior to cleaning, ensure that the cleaner is aware of the type of contamination.

10. Disposal of Lab Coats

Lab coats that are grossly contaminated must be disposed of as per the waste disposal policy. Coats contaminated with biohazardous materials must be decontaminated prior to disposal.