

## APPENDIX 2

### Emergency Washing Facilities

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#### **Emergency Washing Facilities (Showers & Eyewash) – WAC 296-800-15030**

Make sure emergency washing facilities are functional and readily accessible.

#### **You must provide an emergency shower:**

- When there is potential for major portions of an employee's body to contact corrosives, strong irritants, or toxic chemicals.
- That delivers water to cascade over the user's entire body at a minimum rate of 20 gallons (75 liters) per minute for fifteen minutes or more.

#### **You must provide an emergency eyewash:**

- When there is potential for an employee's eyes to be exposed to corrosives, strong irritants, or toxic chemicals. (Science department as well as custodial and maintenance workers.)
- That irrigates and flushes both eyes simultaneously while the user holds their (own) eyes open.
- With an on-off valve that activates in one second or less and remains on without user assistance until intentionally turned off.
- That delivers at least 0.4 gallons (1.5 liters) of water per minute for fifteen minutes or more.

#### **Material Safety Data Sheets:**

You can determine whether chemicals in your workplace require emergency washing facilities by looking at the material safety data sheet (MSDS) or similar documents. The MSDS contains information about first-aid requirements and emergency flushing of skin or eyes.

#### **You must make sure emergency washing facilities:**

- Are located so that it takes no more than ten seconds to reach.
- Are kept free of obstacles blocking their use.
- Function correctly.
- Provide the quality and quantity of water that is satisfactory for emergency washing purposes.

#### **Maintenance of Showers and Eyewashes:**

- If water in emergency washing facilities is allowed to freeze, they will not function correctly. Precautions need to be taken to prevent this from happening.

**Travel Distance to Showers and Eyewashes:**

The travel distance to an emergency washing facility should be no more than fifty feet (15.25 meters).

**Training for Showers and Eyewashes:**

- Training in the location and use of your emergency washing facilities is required under the employer chemical hazard communication rule, **WAC 296-800-170** and the accident prevention program rule, **WAC 296-800-140**.
- All emergency-washing facilities using non-portable water must have signs stating the water is “not fit for drinking.” See **WAC 296-800-15035**

**Inspection of Showers and Eyewashes – WAC 296-800-15035**

You must make sure all plumbed emergency washing facilities are inspected once a year to make sure they function correctly. Inspections should include:

- Examination of the piping.
- Making sure that water is available at the appropriate temperature and quality.
- Activation to check that the valves and other hardware work properly.
- Checking the water flow rate.

**Activation of Showers and Eyewashes – WAC 296-800-15035**

- Make sure plumbed emergency eyewashes and hand-held drench hoses are activated weekly to check the proper functioning of the valves, hardware and availability of water.
- Make sure all self-contained eyewash equipment and personal eyewash units are inspected and maintained according to manufacturer instructions.
  - Inspections to check proper operation must be once a year.
  - Sealed personal eyewashes must be replaced after the manufacturer’s expiration date. The period for sealed containers is typically two years.
  - Most manufacturers recommend replacing fluid in open self-contained eyewashes every six months.

**Supplemental Flushing Equipment – WAC 296-800-15040**

Supplemental flushing equipment cannot be used in place of required emergency showers or eyewashes.

- You must make sure hand-held drench hoses deliver at least 3.0 gallons (11.4 liters) of water per minutes for fifteen minutes or more.
- A drench hose is useful when:
  - The spill is small and does not require an emergency shower.
  - Used with a shower for local rinsing, particularly on the lower extremities.
- You must make sure personal eyewash equipment delivers only clean water or other medically approved eye-flushing solutions