



Recommendations for Sharing, Cleaning, and Disinfecting Chemical Splash Goggles and Glasses



The Emerging Issues Subcommittee of the American Chemical Society's Committee on Chemical Safety (CCS) was tasked to recommend safe practices for sharing, cleaning, and disinfecting chemical splash goggles and glasses.

Introduction

Although sharing personal protective equipment is not a preferred practice, we recognize that chemical splash goggles and glasses are often shared in elementary and secondary schools, at informal educational venues, at out-of-school enrichment programs, at science festivals, and in the hands-on science events organized by ACS members.¹ When chemical splash goggles and glasses are shared, teachers and parents of children participating in school and other chemistry-related activities should take steps to clean the goggles and glasses to prevent disease transmission or exposure to the next wearer.

Recommendation

When possible, every person should be assigned their own chemical splash goggles or glasses, to ensure appropriate fit and prevent exposure to the next wearer. When chemical splash goggles or glasses are used best safety practices for collection, cleaning and disinfecting should be followed:

- **Collection.**
Used chemical splash goggles and glasses should be collected in a separate, labeled bin until they can be disinfected.
- **Cleaning and Disinfection with a Disinfectant.**
 - Cleaning and disinfection should be done in an area free from contaminants.
 - Nitrile gloves must be worn while performing cleaning and disinfection. The shared eyewear (including the straps) should be thoroughly washed in warm water and rinsed with fresh water.
 - The goggles or glasses should then be cleaned with a quaternary ammonium-based disinfectant (such as CaviWipes, Clorox Disinfecting Wipes, or Lysol Disinfecting Wipes) according to manufacturer's directions.
 - The goggles or glasses must be given time to dry before the next use.
- **Disinfection with Ultraviolet (UV) Light.**
As an alternative to wet methods, glasses and goggles may be sterilized between wearers using UV light. Germicidal cabinets are available from many commercial vendors at moderate cost. Always follow all manufacturer's instructions to ensure full disinfection.

Reference

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. Eye Safety Infection Control Q & A. July 29, 2013. www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/eye/eye-infectious.html (accessed 2020-12-07).

¹ Please note that in most cases, chemical splash goggles are preferable to safety glasses for eye protection. For more information, see pp. 108–9 of *Prudent Practices in the Laboratory: Handling and Management of Chemical Hazards* (National Research Council, 2011).