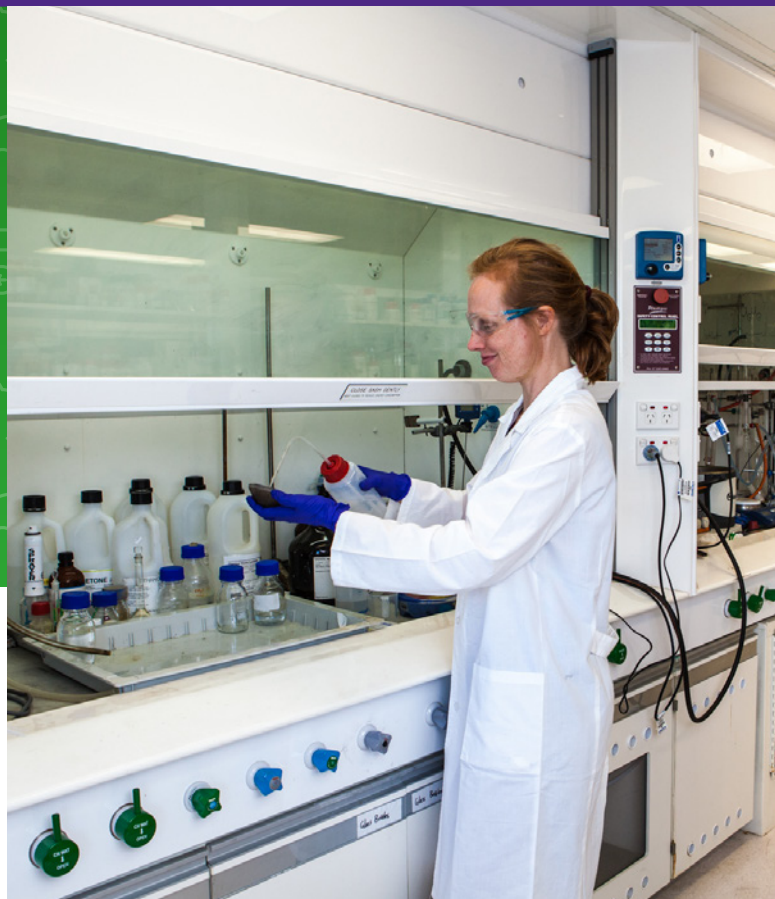


Fume Cupboards

Fume cupboards pull air through and out of a cupboard to ventilate experiments. This process is energy intensive, constituting approximately 46% of total lab energy use and placing a large strain on the air conditioning system.



Dash the sash

The sash is the protective barrier between the experiment and the researcher. For some cupboards, when the sash is open, air is drawn through and out of the cupboard at a higher rate.

Closing the sash when not in use, and keeping it low when operational, reduces energy.

Fix it

The sash should be lowered and raised using one hand when not obstructed. If this is not possible, it should be reported to pfassist@pf.uq.edu.au so it can be fixed.

Broken sashes that do not close properly will draw more air.

Do not use cupboards as storage

Generally, a chemical is stored in fume cupboards because it starts vaporising and emitting odours. Chemicals vapourise because the bottle seal breaks down over time and chemicals leak out. The UQ Science Store offers bottle tops and seals to combat this, so chemicals can be safely stored elsewhere.

Email the UQ Science Store at uqsciencestore@uq.edu.au (for more information on requirements for storage of chemicals, please refer to Australian Standard AS2243).

Switch off and save

Check with P&F if you are able to turn off fume cupboards completely when not required.

If you can, P&F will turn off the fume cupboard and will need to reconnect it if needed.

Switch the cupboard light off when not in use.

Atmospheric chemicals

While some cupboards have scrubbers in their air ducts to remove chemicals, most do not. This means vapours released in the cupboard are discharged into the atmosphere. Therefore, if less toxic chemicals can be used, this will improve environmental health (see Chemical Management fact sheet for more information).

Label your space

Labelling your own experiments ensure fume cupboards are operated correctly, especially when shared with several groups. Stickers and labels are available from the Sustainability Office.

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