

## COMMON FUME HOOD MYTHS:

**Myth** - When working with highly dangerous materials, the higher the face velocity the better.

- While it is important to have a face velocity between 0.4 m/s (80 fpm) to 0.6 m/s (120 fpm), velocities higher than this can be less efficient. When face velocities are excessive, eddy (turbulent) currents can be created that allow contaminants to be drawn out of the hood, possibly increasing worker exposure.

**Myth** - A fume hood can be used for storage of volatile, flammable, or odiferous materials when an appropriate storage cabinet is not available.

- While it is appropriate to keep chemicals that are being used during a particular procedure inside the fume hood, hoods are not designed for permanent chemical storage. Each item placed on the work surface interferes with the directional air flow, causing turbulence and eddy currents that allow contaminants to be drawn out of the hood. Even with highly volatile materials, as long as a container is properly capped, evaporation will not add significantly to worker exposure. Unlike a fume hood, flammable materials storage cabinets provide additional protection in the event of a fire.

**Myth** - The fume hood can be used as a waste disposal mechanism (e.g. for evaporation of chemicals).

- It is not appropriate to use a fume hood for waste disposal because it vents directly to the atmosphere untreated.