

# Create a Safe Working Environment in Your Biological Safety Cabinet

## 1. Airflow Problem

The Magnehelic gauge should read close to the setting at the last certification (record that reading for easy reference). A reading that's too high or low may indicate a problem with the airflows.

- *Don't work in the cabinet if the Magnehelic gauge indicates a problem. Call for service.*

## 2. Mixing Clean with Dirty Items

Take care to separate clean items from dirty inside the cabinet. Use a systematic process (i.e. left to right or front to back) to avoid contamination.

- *Limit items inside the cabinet to only the most essential.*

## 3. Covered Air Intake Grille

When untreated laboratory air is blocked from entering the front grille, it can flow over the work surface contaminating the product and posing a risk to personnel.



- *Never block the front air intake grille.*

## 4. Clipboard in Cabinet

Anything placed into the cabinet becomes contaminated—pens, pencils, clipboards, etc. If this occurs, always disinfect the item before taking it out.

- *Use only the items essential to your task in the safety cabinet.*

## 5. Improper Pipette and Waste Disposal

Pipettes should be decontaminated within the cabinet. Disinfect items in a shallow pan filled with disinfectant. Other biohazard waste should be similarly bagged in the cabinet to avoid spreading contamination.

- *Remove disinfected waste from the cabinet frequently.*

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## 6. Exhaust Diffuser Missing or Not Installed

Any Class II Type A cabinet not connected to an exhaust system uses an air diffuser that also protects the exhaust HEPA filter. This filter is very fragile and easily damaged. Make sure the diffuser is installed correctly and not blocked. Keep the top of the cabinet clear.

- *Refer to your operator's manual for details.*

## 7. Sash Alarm Muted

An alarm sounds and flashes when the sash is opened too high or closed too low. The alarm can be silenced five minutes at a time for loading large equipment and cleaning.



- *Never work in the cabinet when the sash is not at the correct height.*

## 8. UV Light When Sash is Open

UV radiation is hazardous to your health. Newer cabinets have a safety circuit that allows the UV light to activate only if the sash is completely closed. Do not adjust this important setting.

- *Make sure the sash is completely closed before using UV light. The glass sash will protect you from UV radiation.*

## 9. Bunsen Burner (Open Flame)

Flammable gasses (gasses are NOT captured by HEPA filters) may recirculate and build up to the Lower Explosive Level (LEL) and cause an explosion or fire.

- *Find a substitute. The heat from an open flame can disrupt airflows.*

Airflow Schematic for Class II Type A2 Biosafety Cabinets

