

Safety Facts: Eyewash Stations*



Eyewash stations are devices used to flush the eyes in an emergency. Employers are required to have emergency washing facilities (including eyewash stations) in places where a worker's eyes or skin may be exposed to harmful or corrosive materials.

Why is it important?

Protecting your eyes from exposure to harmful substances in the workplace is important, as they are your most valuable assets. Using appropriate protection such as safety glasses and face shields are necessary to protect your eyes from irritants, chemical splashes or any fumes and dust.



Key characteristics

The Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (OSHR) requires that a risk assessment be conducted to determine the appropriate emergency washing facilities. Based on the risk assessment findings, this emergency equipment must be located within a specific distance from the workers.

There are two eyewash stations: primary and secondary. In an emergency, the secondary eyewash station, typically a saline eyewash bottle, can be quickly used to flush the eyes. Then, ask for help to be escorted to the primary eyewash station where eyes can be flushed for 15 minutes or longer using tepid temperature water (16 to 38 degrees Celsius). Primary eyewash stations need meet the OHSR requirements and it is recommended to follow ANSI standard A358.1-2014.

Preventive next steps

- When using chemicals refer to the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) **before** using the chemical.
- Wear the appropriate PPE.
- Make sure access to eyewash stations is **NOT** blocked.
- Make sure eyewash stations are not used for any other activities e.g., rinsing out coffee cup.

- The eyewash stations should be inspected monthly. For plumbed systems, run the system to ensure the water line is flushed of any containments. For self-contained eyewash stations ensure the solution is still current. Check with the manufacturer for the expiry date.
- After flushing eyes, seek medical attention. Bring a secondary eyewash bottle for the trip to the hospital.
- When possible, re-train and re-educate workers on proper use of chemicals and other irritants in the workplace.



For additional resources visit:

[Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 5.85-5.96](#) Emergency Washing Facilities

[ANSI Z358.1-2014](#) American National Standard for Emergency Eyewash and Shower Equipment

Eyewash Stations Toolbox Talk

Name of Facilitator: _____ Date: _____

Supervisor Signature: _____ Date: _____

Employee feedback/questions/recommendations

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
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Workers who attended

Name	Initial	Name	Initial
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
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Key Talking Points (Facilitator Notes)

