



UMBC

How to Test Your Eyewash or Drench Hose

There are many different variations of eyewashes and drench hoses on campus, so it is important to make sure to understand how your specific eyewash or drench hose works. Each eyewash and drench hose should be inspected on a **weekly basis by the laboratory staff** to ensure that it is ready for use in case of an emergency. Please note that laboratory staff **DO NOT** need to test the emergency shower, this is conducted by UMBC ESH on an annual basis. For your convenience, a premade testing sheet has been attached to the end of this document.

General Testing procedures:

1. Engage the actuator and run the eyewash/drench hose for ~1-3 minutes or until the water runs clear.
2. While the water is running, check that there is proper flow coming from the nozzle(s). For the eyewashes and double nozzle drench hoses, the streams of water should be able to hit both eyes simultaneously.
3. Ensure the temperature of the water is tepid or lukewarm.
4. Disengage the actuator and make sure the water shuts off completely.
5. Fill out the provided testing sheet.

Specific Eyewash Considerations:

Some styles of eyewashes require more in depth testing procedures. The four predominant styles of eyewashes on campus and their additional testing considerations are as follows:

1. Nozzles which rotate over a sink.
 - a. Rotate the eyewash over the sink, then engage the actuator. A blocking device may be required to avoid spillover of water.
2. Fixed nozzles with an attached washbowl to catch the water.
 - a. Ensure the eyewash actuator does not actuate the emergency shower as well, also ensure to have a bucket or catch basin to contain the water if the washbowl is not connected to a floor drain.
3. Nozzles connected to a hose (aka Drench Hose, typically found near sinks)
 - a. Pull up on the drench hose and direct the nozzle into the sink. When engaged the actuator should lock into position allowing the water to run without having to keep the handle pushed in. Please note that an actuator lock (if present) will need to be disengaged to stop the flow of water.
4. Nozzles that pull out from the wall
 - a. Mainly found in the Chemistry building, these units will not be required to be tested weekly.



A collage of the different eyewashes found on campus. Please note that example #4 will not be required to be tested weekly.

If you are unfamiliar with the proper operation of your specific eyewash, please contact UMBC ESH at esh@umbc.edu or (410) 455-2918.

If the eyewash or drench hose is not functioning correctly, alert others in the lab and call work control at (410) 455-2550 to get the device repaired.

