



Lab Coats

Are a type of personal protective equipment (PPE) used to provide arm and body protection when working with hazardous chemicals and/or biohazardous materials. EHS provides free rental lab coats to anyone working in a UO laboratory (Knight Campus has its own lab coat program). There are different lab coat types appropriate for different lab hazards. All lab coat types provide limited splash protection—a chemical-resistant apron (and/or other fluid-resistant PPE) should be used if there is the potential for splashing of high hazard chemicals and/or large volumes of chemicals. **Like all PPE, lab coats are the last line of defense and cannot replace engineering controls like fume hoods, glove boxes, or biosafety cabinets.**

PIs or supervisors are responsible for choosing the correct lab coat type for each lab member based on their job hazards. EHS is available to consult with supervisors on selecting the appropriate type of lab coat.

Three Types of Lab Coats Available from EHS

- **General-purpose white coat**
 - 80/20 polyester/cotton blend.
 - Light splash resistance.
 - Appropriate for: the majority of laboratory work at the UO.
- **Light blue barrier coat**
 - Polyester fluid-resistant barrier on coat front and sleeves; back is poly/cotton blend.
 - Appropriate for: work with biohazardous materials.
 - Not appropriate for: working with strong acids and bases—consider a chemical-resistant apron instead.
- **Flame-resistant dark blue coat**
 - Fabric is self-extinguishing, to minimize the severity and amount of burn injury.
 - Appropriate for: working with pyrophoric reagents outside of a glovebox with an inert atmosphere (NFPA 45 Standard on Fire Protection for Laboratories Using Chemicals, section 6.6.2).
 - In limited cases, FR coats may be appropriate for working with large volumes of highly flammable chemicals near an open flame—please consult with EHS.
 - Under the FR coat and on the legs/feet, users must also wear clothing composed of fabrics that will not melt (NFPA 45, section 6.6.4).
 - Not appropriate for: hot work such as welding or brazing; does not insulate against heat.



General-purpose lab coat



Light-blue barrier and dark-blue flame-resistant lab coats



Examples of chemical-resistant lab aprons

Ready to get a lab coat? Visit <https://safety.uoregon.edu/lab-coat-program>

