

COLD & WARM ROOM SAFETY



CAUTION! Environmental rooms typically continuously recirculate air - there is usually no mechanically supplied air or exhausted ventilation.

NO DRY ICE, LIQUID NITROGEN OR COMPRESSED GAS

These may displace oxygen and cause a suffocation hazard. If compressed gas (other than breathing air or oxygen) is essential, contact EHS (Environmental Health and Safety) about identifying the correct oxygen or gas sensor and local alarm. Post the alarm procedure and train all room users to it.



NO FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS (e.g., solvents, alcohols)

Their vapors can accumulate, creating an explosive atmosphere, which can be ignited by electrical switches or other ignition sources.



NO HAZARDOUS OR VOLATILE CHEMICALS (e.g., chloroform, carcinogens, reproductive toxins, acutely toxic chemicals)

NO VOLATILE ACIDS (which can corrode metal)

NO FOOD OR BEVERAGE (which may become contaminated)



NO CARDBOARD, WOOD, CLOTH OR PAPER (e.g., boxes, pallets, shelves)

These cellulose materials support mold growth that can contaminate research materials or be carried and spread to other areas.

FURTHER MINIMIZE MOLD GROWTH:

- Promptly clean spilled media, buffers, and other liquids and thoroughly dry surfaces after cleaning.
- Report water leaks or condensation on surfaces to Facilities.
- Latch the door to minimize condensation from air leakage.
- If minimal mold is present, use wet cleaning methods with a detergent or disinfectant (including Wescodyne, but excluding concentrated bleach that can damage metal), and thoroughly dry surfaces after cleaning. Dry sweeping may disturb and distribute mold spores. If extensive mold is present, contact Facilities, which may hire a mold remediation firm.



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Laboratory Safety

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