

CEM OHSE NEWSLETTER



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Storage of Chemicals

What's New from the CEM OHSE Unit

Exit Checklist



Have you ever stumbled upon a fume hood that looks like a tornado hit it? Well, fear not, my fellow scientists! The brilliant minds at the CEM OHSE Unit have designed an exit checklist to save the day. Before you bid adieu to the department, make sure to tick off all the boxes on this checklist. It's like a Marie Kondo for your lab space.

This checklist is a game-changer for all new postgrads out there. No more digging through clutter or dealing with dirty glassware. With a clean work area and fume hood, they'll be ready to dive into their research from day one.

The checklist covers everything from inventory of samples to ensuring glassware is sparkling clean and chemicals are safely returned to the stores. Say goodbye to chaos and hello to organization!



Check out the checklist on the link below.

https://science.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/media/documents/science_uct_ac_za/232/CEM%20Exit%20Checklist.pdf

Emergency Shower and Eye Wash purging

Attention all researchers! The CEM OHSE Unit has a special request for you. It is crucial that you regularly purge the emergency showers and eye wash stations at least once a month. This will prevent the buildup of black matter and ensure that the water is clean and ready for use in case of an emergency. Let's keep those showers sparkling and the eye wash stations crystal clear! Your cooperation is greatly appreciated in maintaining a safe and efficient work environment.



What to do if there is an emergency after hours?

Have you ever experienced water dripping down the stairs, coming from the ceiling, or the fire alarm going off late at night or on the weekend? Do you know what to do in these situations or who to contact? In cases like these, you should reach out to the Risk Operation Centre (ROC). You can call them at

080 650 2222.

It's a toll-free number.

Make sure to let them know what kind of emergency it is, the building and location within the building, and provide your student or staff number. Stay safe and be prepared for any unexpected situations!



Do you understand the importance of storing chemicals correctly?



In the chemistry department, a meticulous system has been implemented for the storage of chemicals. They are organized by chemical families and similar reactivities. For example, aldehydes and ketones are stored together, as well as amines and alcohols. This strategic arrangement minimizes the risk of reactions between incompatible chemicals, thus ensuring a safer environment for all.

It is imperative that all chemicals in the department adhere to this storage protocol. Each chemical must be documented in an inventory that specifies its chemical family.

For further clarification and detailed instructions, contact the CEM OHSE Unit for assistance. Your commitment to following this protocol is crucial in maintaining a secure and efficient work environment.



All the waste streams offered by CEM OHSE unit

The CEM OHSE Unit manages a variety of waste streams, from standard non-halogenated liquid waste to E-Waste. We are passionate about recycling and even have a special collection store for glass and plastic bottles over one litre. Remember, these bottles need to be triple rinsed before the recycling company can pick them up!

For a step-by-step guide on how to triple rinse, click on the link below!

https://science.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/media/documents/science_uct_ac_za/232/sop-triple-rinse-chart.pdf



Whether you're just doing a routine lab clean-up or a major clean-out, make sure to have our Waste Disposal Chart handy. This chart will help you determine where each type of waste should go.

https://science.uct.ac.za/sites/default/files/media/documents/science_uct_ac_za/232/Waste%20Disposal%20Chart.pdf

And don't forget, any unwanted or broken electronic goods can be taken to our E-Waste collection point for proper disposal. Let's keep our environment clean and green together!

Need to report a near-miss or incident

Have you been involved, or witness a near-miss or an incident, well, please report it by scanning the QR code around the department or click on the link below. It's easy and only takes a couple of minutes to do. Remember a near-miss is as important as reporting an incident.



<https://forms.office.com/r/KFD4PTm2J>

