



# Lab Chatter

Volume 1, Issue 8

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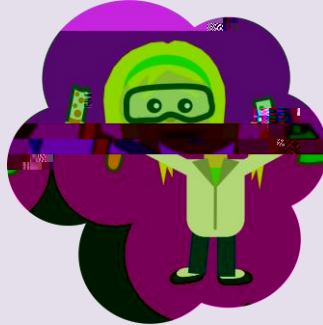
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If something splashes onto your lab coat or your coat catches on fire - you can easily take the coat off. It is more difficult to remove contaminated clothing.

Many clothing items made with synthetic fabrics will melt with heat or fire, causing severe burns. Lab coats are generally made of cotton or specialized fabrics that will not melt. Many lab coats are fire-resistant.

Lab coats protect your skin from spills and splashes that occur in the laboratory.

Keeping your lab coat in the lab prevents spreading contamination from the laboratory to your home.

Lab coats protect your regular clothing from dirt and nonobvious contamination in the lab.

Lab coats with sleeves rolled down and all the buttons buttoned make you look like a serious scientist (if you're also wearing safety goggles, you look like a smart scientist)!

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Clean in departmental washer/dryer system dedicated for laboratory coat washing, located at a UNE facility strictly for this purpose. Whether contaminated or not, cloth laboratory coats should not be taken home or to a public laundromat for washing.

Use a contracted outside vending service provided by your department for lab coat cleaning such as Cintas or Pratt Abbott, etc. EHS can help to coordinate with a vendor.

Dispose of the lab coat in appropriate manner (such as biohazard or hazardous waste) if it is heavily contaminated or damaged through a chemical or biological spill or exposure.

Lab coats should not leave the lab unless they are sent out to be laundered appropriately.

Lab coats should not be worn in restrooms.

Lab coats should not be worn in eating areas, break rooms, offices or public areas.

If the lab coat is contaminated, it should be taken off immediately, bagged and labeled, and a clean lab coat should be donned.





