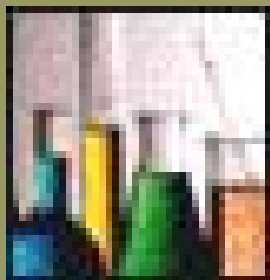


# Gloves & Lab Coats

**USC**

*EH&S Fact Sheet  
November 2006*



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Door handles and telephones are frequent sites of contamination found during EH&S laboratory inspections. You can help minimize contamination from hazardous materials by following these guidelines.

## **Remove your gloves before touching common surfaces.**

Before you touch the telephone, computer, microscope, faucet, drawer handles or other common use surface in your laboratory, remove your glove from the hand you will use. Before you enter common use areas such as hallways or elevators, REMOVE YOUR GLOVES and WASH YOUR HANDS.

Hundreds of people use door knobs and elevator buttons daily without wearing a glove. Be mindful of the concerns of others.

Use a single glove or an appropriate secondary container when you transport materials through common use areas. Use your free ungloved hand to open door knobs or push bars.

If you wear gloves just to “protect your sample from you,” others do not know this and will properly be concerned about items you may contaminate with your gloves. Carry gloves with you to don as needed.

## **Remove your lab coat before leaving your lab.**

Lab coats are intended to protect you from contamination, or to protect your work from being contaminated. Either way, they should be left in the lab except when you may need protection during transport.

If you work in multiple labs or buildings, either keep a lab coat in each location or carry one with you. Do not wear lab coats in dining facilities.

As always, please encourage those around you to work safely.

**EH&S Fact Sheets are intended to facilitate safety discussions. Post them on your department bulletin board and discuss in safety meetings.**

