

Hydrofluoric Acid



Any work involving HF should be performed inside functioning chemical fume hoods. These fume hoods should have polyethylene, polypropylene, or polycarbonate sashes.



First Aid kit required

- Calcium Gluconate gel (calgonate)*
- Container of antacid tablet (regular strength 0.5g CaCO₃)
- * Should be stored in refrigerator if possible- before use make sure it isn't past the due date
- Calcium gluconate slurry can be made by dissolving 2.5g of calcium gluconate in 100mL of water- soluble lubricant
- Eyewash and Safety shower should be nearby





Spill kit required

 DO NOT USE silica sand (HF will react with this to form SiF₄ gas)

Spill kits should include

- Thick (14 mil or thicker) chemically resistant gloves (2 pairs)
- Splash goggles (at least 1 pair)
- Polyethylene bags (4 bags 4 mil thick)







Personal Protective Equipment

- Safety goggles (not glasses)
- Thick nitrile gloves (14 mil or thicker) or fulllength rubber sleeves
- Butyl rubber apron
- Face shield

When working:

- Thoroughly wash hands after handling HF bottles and reaction vessels
- Hands-on training must be provided before researchers do this work
- SOPs should be implemented with this work
- A rubber bottle carrier is minimum but a fully enclosed secondary container should be used when transporting (top right)
- The corrosive cabinet holding the HF should be labeled (bottom right)



WARNING!

Hydrofluoric acid in use

Do not disturb

Contact

For further information

In the event of skin or eye contact: immediately flush with water for 20 minutes. For skin, add calcium gluconate gel. Medical evaluation is necessary for any exposure.



Department of Chemistry
Safety Minutes

Developed from Hydrofluoric Acid Safety Guidance
University of Iowa EH&S
Last Revised 5/9/2018