Why wear lab coats?

- Lab coats are personal protective equipment worn in the lab when working with hazardous materials to protect the skin and personal clothes.
- Lab coats absorb or deflect particles that you may not even be aware of, e.g., aerosols, dust and radioactives.
- In case of an accident, it is faster and easier to remove a lab coat than street clothes to minimize skin contact with hazardous materials.
- Lab coats should always be worn fully buttoned with sleeves rolled down.

When to wear lab coats

- Always wear lab coats when working with hazardous chemicals/materials.
- Poly/cotton lab coats are used in standard wet chemical labs.
- Fluid Resistant lab coats are used to repel biological in nature materials for use in biological and medical labs.
- Flame Retardant lab coats are used to protect against Water reactive or Pyrophoric chemicals.

When not to wear lab coats

Avoid spreading contamination

- Don't wear lab coats in offices, lunch rooms, lounge areas, or outside the laboratory.
- Don't bring lab coats home.
- Don't launder lab coats with other clothing at home or laundromats.

The UW Offices of Research Support and Economic Development and Environmental Health & Safety are offering this program as part of a growing positive Safety Culture in the UW community.

First time requesters of lab coats

1. Go to the on-line request form (http://www.uwyo.edu/serverreports/labcoat.aspx)
2. Determine the size and type of lab coat you need and fill out the registration information requested.
3. Poly/cotton and fluid resistant lab coat order should arrive at the check-out location within 2 weeks. Flame Retardant lab coats arrive in about 4 weeks.
4. Contact RMSO at: uwehs@uwyo.edu for additional sizes.

Lab coat check out procedure

- Lab coats will be available in the Wyoming Hall room 202 and the Molecular Biology Department (ASMB 203).
- Provide your name, ‘W’ number, department name and lab.
- Lab coats are cleaned and exchanged after dirty ones are returned to the check-out location.
- We track workers and departments that use this service.
- Lab coats must be returned upon leaving UW.
- The P.I. or the department may be charged for lost or damaged lab coats.

Contact RMSO: uwehs@uwyo.edu or the Chemical Safety Specialist jbenedik@uwyo.edu, or call 766-2649 if there are any questions.