

# Guide to Cold and Warm Room Safety

## 9 THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN WORKING IN A COLD OR WARM ROOM

Warm rooms and cold rooms are used throughout campus. These spaces are designed to maintain a temperature outside of that of ambient room temperature for storage of material and for certain processes to occur. Though these spaces are common on campus the proper and safe use of these spaces is not intuitive. Often the proper way to do things may look odd to someone not in the know. To keep everyone safe and prevent anyone from getting odd looks for storing paper towels in airtight bags, EHS has prepared a handy guide.



Great!



Needs work!

All individuals working in cold rooms and warm rooms should be informed on and follow the full guidelines. A more detailed guide is available the EHS webpage. **Hazards include but are not limited to exposure to temperatures outside of normal range, poor ventilation, entrapment, and trip and slip hazards.**

**EHS has prepared this guide as a reminder of proper safety for cold rooms and warm rooms.**

1. **Consider the Door.** Make sure the door functions properly. Ensure that the door is closed tight when not in use.
2. **Get Off the Floor.** Items on the floor can be trip and slip hazards. Promptly clean all spills. All items should be stored on a shelf or counter to allow for better air flow.
3. **Ditch Paper.** Remove all paper, cardboard and wood from the room. Paper or cardboard items required for procedures should be kept in airtight container until needed.
4. **What NOT to Store.** Do not store any food or hazardous materials in Environmental rooms. This includes flammable chemicals, acids, bases, compressed gas and dry ice.
5. **Keep it Clean.** Regularly wash floors, walls, shelving, counters, cabinets, equipment, doors, door gaskets and other fixtures.
6. **Label it.** Label all items in shared cold and warm rooms with the name of the principal investigator.
7. **Get Help.** Contact the Operation and Maintenance Service Center 410-706-7570 for issues like not maintaining temperature, leaks and other mechanical issues.
8. **Be Safe.** Always wear appropriate personal protective equipment and follow safe work practices when working in an environmental room.
9. **When in Doubt, Reach Out.** Contact EHS at 410-706-7055 for safety concerns or questions.