

Lessons Learned...Base Bath Hand Burn

What Happened?

Student employee suffered chemical burn to the hand while cleaning lab glassware in a strong base bath.

What went right?

- Student employee was protected from further injury by wearing appropriate lab coat.
- Student employee was protected from further injury by wearing liner nitrile gloves and outer chemical resistant gloves.
- Lab Safety Contact was present to respond to incident and provide support.

What should have been done differently?

- Tongs provided to handle glassware during cleaning in base bath should have been used.
- Additional tools for handling various shapes and sizes of glassware in base bath should have been provided and used.
- Outer chemical resistant gloves that provide better dexterity than silver shield gloves, such as rough butyl gloves, should have been provided and used for handling wet glassware taken out of base bath.

What was the cause of the injury?

- Handling of glassware directly in the base bath without the use of tongs caused glove to contact base liquid, which entered the glove, soaked an area of the lab coat sleeve and burned the student employee's hand.

What corrective actions will be taken?

- Identify and purchase one or more additional tools for handling various shapes and sizes of glassware in base bath.
- Ensure lab staff are trained and instructed to always use tools when cleaning glassware in the base bath.
- Identify and purchase appropriate chemical resistant, seamless gloves for use when cleaning glassware in the base bath.