



## OSU Safety Purchase Assistance Program (SPAP)

[Are you interested in getting reimbursed for safety related purchases?](#)

The SPAP is intended to assist with purchases of equipment which are not already mandated by laws or regulations.

Departments may request funding for up to 75% of their approved safety related purchases, not to exceed \$5,000.



To apply, complete an [online application](#) and ensure that your request follows all applicable criteria.

Examples of approved purchases: Automated hand pruners, a ladder platform hoist, a woodworking safety DVD set.

Examples of ineligible expenses: Adjustable desks, personal protective equipment (PPE).

## Sharps Injury Prevention Tips

The best way to avoid a sharps injury is to eliminate or substitute for other [safer devices](#):

- For injecting samples to analyze or transferring reagents, use a [blunt end needle](#) rather than a hypodermic-type needle.
- Use sharp tissue scissors to cut tissue rather than a razor blade.
- Substitute a needle with a [fine tip micropipette](#) or [fine tip transfer pipet](#).
- For in vivo procedures, you can use a safety device such as an [EasyPoint Retractable Needle](#).
- Never recap a [used needle](#)

To report a sharps injury or to learn more about sharp safety visit:

[ehs.oregonstate.edu/bio](https://ehs.oregonstate.edu/bio)

## NEW @ EHS

New universal and hazardous [waste pickup request form](#) on EH&S website.

[EH&S](#) has added several new training modules to the [Bridge LMS](#), including:

- Introduction to [Loading Dock Safety](#)
- Arc Flash Safety (this is a pay-per-view class so contact EH&S for approval and pre-registration)
- [Driver Safety Program](#)

To ensure compliance with [Oregon OSHA COVID-19 rule](#), please make sure you become familiar with OSU's [Exposure Risk Assessment & Infection Control Plan](#) and [Information & Training](#) requirements.

## Temporary Power Use

When needing extra outlets in your workspace, avoid using an extension cord as permanent wiring; instead use a relocatable power tap (RPT). An RPT should be equipped with the following safety features:

- Circuit Breaker
- On/Off switch & Multiple Outlets
- 15 Amp Rating or above
- Listed as UL 1363

Some reminders/precautions:

- Do not use an RPT for large machinery or high-powered devices;
- Never subject a cord to damage.
- Make sure the gauge of cord can handle the power load.

More information available via [NFPA 1: Electrical Fire Safety](#)

## Lessons Learned: Cold Burns from Liquid Nitrogen

A cryovial dislodged from the rack into the liquid nitrogen. The student employee, who was wearing cryogenic gloves over nitrile gloves at the time, reached in to grab the vial directly from the liquid nitrogen. Despite having proper gloves on, the student felt a burning sensation and later noticed blistering on their fingers.

### Lessons Learned:

- Use forceps or tongs to remove items from liquid nitrogen; never touch liquid nitrogen directly, even if you have gloves on.
- Create a standard operating procedure (SOP) for handling liquid nitrogen, which includes training.



Source: [UCLA Lessons Learned](#)