

HAZARD ALERT:

Laboratory Hotplate Fires

LABORATORY HOTPLATES MAY OVERHEAT



Laboratory hotplates have been known to exceed set temperatures or spontaneously heat while the hotplate is off, resulting in numerous fires and explosions. Models of particular concern are Corning (PC-35, PC-351, PC200, PC220, and PC-420), Fisher Isotemp, and Thermolyne SP46925. Hotplates purchased before 1984 are inherently unsafe and should be taken out of service and discarded. Duke and multiple peer institutions have experienced hotplate malfunctions and fires due to spontaneous heating and unattended/improper use.



Observe the following safety guidelines for hotplates:

- Unplug hotplates when not in use.
- Periodically test the function of the off switch to verify that it works and that the heating device cools quickly.
- If only stirring is required, use a stirrer only, do not use a stirrer hotplate combination.
- When purchasing new hotplates select a hermetically sealed housing to protect internal electronics from degradation due to liquids and gases.
- Hotplate operations should be supervised and monitored for unexpected heating.



Corning PC-351

For further information go to <https://tinyurl.com/yccj2ydc>