Safe laboratory footwear in combination with full-length pants (or clothing that fully covers the legs and ankles) and socks protects the skin from potential splash hazards and biohazardous agent/hazardous chemical exposures.

**IDEAL** work shoes for laboratory work are constructed of non-porous material (e.g., leather) and equipped with non-absorbent, slip-resistant soles. Special foot protection (e.g., steel toe protectors) is needed and required in certain areas where hazards include crushing, sharp or pointed objects on floor, or molten metal splashes.

**ACCEPTABLE** footwear that provides protection and is commonly worn in the laboratory work includes fabric-covered shoes (e.g., athletic shoes, sneakers) and perforated leather shoes. These shoes, however, may be susceptible to liquid penetration.

**UNACCEPTABLE** footwear includes: open-toe/heel shoes; sandals and flip flops; ballet shoes; and crocs™.

High-heels are not recommended for lab use because they are susceptible to tripping hazards and are not ergonomically sound.

**IN THE EVENT OF A HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL SPLASH:**
1. Rinse with copious amounts of water from safety eyewash/shower station.
2. Remove shoes and socks immediately.
3. Notify DPS at (213) 740-4321. Seek medical attention if necessary.
4. Heavily contaminated shoes and socks are considered hazardous laboratory waste. DO NOT attempt to decontaminate or reclaim them.
   a. Place contaminated articles in a plastic bag, apply an adhesive waste label to the bag, and list contaminants on the label.
   b. Request a hazardous waste pick-up via EHSA.
   c. Refer to Hazardous Waste Disposal Fact Sheet for more information.

**REFERENCES**
- USC PPE Standards (university policy for wearing PPE)
- Lab Manager - Appropriate Footwear in the Lab (web article)
- Cal-OSHA Personal Safety Devices and Safeguards (California Code of Regulations)