

SAFETY IN THE LABORATORY

General Safety Guidelines:

1. Prepare for every investigation by reading through the procedure. Follow all written directions precisely unless your teacher directs you to make certain changes. If at any time you are unsure of any part of the procedure, ask your instructor for assistance.
2. Upon entering the classroom or laboratory, wait for your teacher to direct you to begin working. Do not touch anything until instructed to do so.
3. Do not touch, inhale, heat, or mix any substances in the laboratory unless directed to do so by your teacher.
4. Work in a careful, organized manner. Horseplay, practical jokes, or disruptive behavior are dangerous and cannot be tolerated.
5. Never consume food or beverages in the science laboratory. Avoid putting any chemicals, specimens, or lab equipment in your mouth unless you are instructed to do so.
6. Clothing and jewelry should be appropriate for laboratory work. Do not wear bulky outerwear, loose clothing, or or dangling jewelry that could interfere with the laboratory activity. Wear shoes at all times.
7. Always tie back longer hair when working in a laboratory where there is an open flame or chemicals are being used.
8. If glassware is broken or breaks during use, notify your teacher. Do not pick up broken glass yourself. Broken glass is not to be thrown in the garbage.
9. Know where special safety and emergency equipment is kept and how to use it.
10. Always inspect glassware before using it. Make sure that there are no cracks or chips and make sure it is clean before use.
11. Report all spills, accidents, or injuries to your teacher immediately.
12. Keep your worktable clean, dry, and uncluttered. At the end of the laboratory period, clean up your work area, return all materials to the proper place, and wash your hands thoroughly. Be sure that all gas jets, electrical equipment, and water faucets are turned off.
13. Notify your instructor of any allergies you may have (latex, nuts, sulfur, etc ...)

Safety with Chemicals:

14. Wear safety goggles and gloves when working with dangerous chemicals that might splatter or spill. Do not remove protective eyewear until you are completely done with the lab procedure and are no longer in contact with the chemicals being used. Everyday glasses are never a substitute for goggles or safety glasses.
15. If a chemical does get in your eye, do not rub your eye. Use the eyewash station or nearby sink to flush your eye for up to 20 minutes.
16. Contact lenses really should not be worn in the laboratory. However, in a school setting, make sure that your instructor is aware that you wear contact lenses if you do suffer an eye injury.
17. If a chemical gets on your skin, immediately notify your instructor and then rinse the area using a sink or safety shower for up to 20 minutes.
18. Read the label of a container three times before using any of the contents of the container. Never use any chemicals from unlabeled containers.
19. Use only the amount of chemicals called for in the directions. Do not pour excess chemicals back into their containers. Dispose used chemicals as explained to you by your instructor; do not just empty chemicals into the sink or garbage.
20. Use a dropper or suction bulb with a pipette to transfer liquid chemicals. Never use your mouth.
21. Do not directly inhale the fumes given off by any substance. If you are looking to detect an odor, wave the air above the substance toward your nose and sniff carefully.

Safety with Electricity:

22. Always handle electrical equipment with dry hands, and be sure that the work area is dry.
23. Do not allow cords from hot plates or microscopes to dangle from worktables.
24. Do not use any electrical equipment with frayed cords, loose connections, or exposed wires. Report such equipment to your teacher.
25. When removing an electrical plug from an outlet pull it out by the plug, not the cord.

I have been instructed in the laboratory safety and emergency techniques needed for my science class. I understand and agree to follow the lab safety regulations set forth above. I am aware that my safety and the safety of my classmates depend on my behavior in the laboratory. With this in mind, I will closely follow the oral and written instructions provided by my teacher and/or school administration.

Student's Signature

Parent's Signature

Date