

Science Safety rules

Dress code:

1. Many materials in the lab can cause eye injury. To protect yourself, wear assigned eye protection whenever you are working with chemicals or any substance that might get in your eyes. Tell your teacher if you wear contact lenses. You should be prepared to remove contact lenses as they can hold chemicals in your eye.
2. Wear a lab apron or lab coat when working with chemicals and stains.
3. Tie back long hair to keep it away from and chemicals, candles and other lab equipment.
4. Wear closed in shoes to prevent chemical spills from burning your feet. Wear long pants to prevent chemical spills from reaching your legs.
5. Before working in the lab, remove or tie back any article of clothing or jewelry that can hang down and touch chemicals.

General safety rules and first aid:

6. Read all directions for an experiment several times. Follow the instructions exactly as they are written. If you are in doubt about any part of the instructions, ask your teacher.
7. Never perform investigations your teacher has not authorized. Do not use any equipment unless your teacher is in the lab.
8. Never handle lab equipment unless you have specific instructions.
9. Take care not to spill any materials in the lab. If a spill occurs, ask your teacher immediately about proper clean up. Never pour chemicals down the sink without the water running. Your teacher will tell you which chemicals are safe to pour and which ones must be collected for proper disposal.
10. Never eat, drink, or bring food into the lab. No gum or candy.
11. Immediately report all accidents to your teacher, no matter how minor.
12. Learn what to do in case of specific accidents, such as getting acid in your eyes or on your skin (Rinse acids off your body with lots of running water).
13. Be aware of the location of the first aid kit. Your teacher should administer any required first aid due to injury. Your teacher may take you to the office, hospital and/or call your parents.
14. Know where and how to report an accident or fire. Find out the location of the fire extinguishers, fire alarm, and phone. Report any fires to the teacher at once.
15. Store all book bags and unneeded materials out of the way. Keep the exit unobstructed.

Using chemicals safely:

16. Never mix chemicals for the fun of it. You might produce a harmful substance or a flammable gas.
17. Many chemicals are poisonous. Never touch, taste or smell a chemical that you do not know for certain is harmless. If you are instructed to smell a chemical, gently waft or wave your hand over the opening of the container. Do not inhale the fumes directly from the container.

18. Use only those chemicals needed in the investigation. Keep lids on all containers when the chemical is not being used. Notify your teacher if any chemical is spilled.
19. Never heat a chemical you have not been instructed to heat. A chemical that is harmless when cool can be dangerous when heated.
20. Dispose of all chemicals as instructed by your teacher. To avoid contamination, never return chemicals to their original containers.
21. Be extra careful when working with acids and bases. Pour such chemicals from one container to another over a sink, not over your work area.
22. If any acid or base get on your skin or clothing, rinse them with water immediately, then let your teacher know. Immediately notify the teacher of an acid or base spill.

Using glassware safely:

23. Never use chipped or broken glassware. If glassware breaks, notify your teacher and dispose of the broken glass in the proper container.
24. Never eat or drink from lab glassware. Thoroughly clean glassware before putting it away.
25. The outside of glassware should be dried before you use it, to prevent it slipping and breaking.
26. Glassware should always be placed in the middle of your work area and not close to the edge of a counter.
27. Keep in mind that hot glassware looks the same as cold glassware. Never pick it up without checking to see if it is hot. Approach it with the back of your hand to check if it is hot. You will feel heat coming off of hot glassware.
28. When you are heating a test tube or bottle, point them away from you and others. Chemicals can splash or boil out of hot test tubes.
29. Never heat a closed container. The expanding hot air vapours, or other gases may blow the container apart.

Using sharp instruments:

30. Handle razors or scalpels with extreme caution. Never cut towards yourself, always cut away from you.
31. Notify your teacher immediately if you cut yourself.

End of experiment rules:

32. When the experiment is completed, clean up your work area and return all equipment to its proper place.
33. Wash your hands before and after every experiment.
34. Leave your work area as you would like to find it. Fold all aprons and return them and safety glasses to the appropriate bins.