

# Physical Science Laboratory Safety

## General Rules

1. **KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING BEFORE YOU DO IT:** Read all laboratory procedures before beginning lab. Follow written and oral directions carefully. Do not touch lab materials or equipment until you are instructed to do so. Ask questions before proceeding if you don't understand a direction or part of the lab procedure.
2. **DON'T EAT:** Do not eat or drink in the laboratory or use laboratory glassware as containers for food or beverages.
3. **BEHAVE RESPONSIBLY:** Conduct yourself in a responsible manner. Horseplay, jokes and pranks are dangerous in a laboratory setting. Let your instructor know if there is something potentially dangerous happening in the lab.
4. **BE NEAT, ORGANIZED, AND ATTENTIVE:** Keep your work area clean. Keep only your lab instructions and/or reports in your work area. Store other school supplies/materials out of the way, making sure aisles are kept clear. Don't leave your laboratory set-up unattended.
5. **BE PREPARED:** Know where safety equipment is located and how to use it before you need to. This includes the eyewash station, fire extinguishers and fire blankets. In case of a fire drill, close containers, and turn off gas valves and electrical equipment before leaving the lab.
6. **DISPOSE OF CHEMICALS PROPERLY:** Don't mix chemicals in sink drains. Sinks should be used for disposal of water and those solutions designated by your instructor. Solid chemicals, metals, matches, filter paper, and other materials should be disposed of in waste containers, not the sink. Check with your instructor before putting any chemicals in a waste container.
7. **DRESS PROPERLY:** Long hair, dangling jewelry, and loose and baggy clothes are hazards in the laboratory. Tie long hair back, and secure dangling jewelry and clothing while working in the lab. Shoes must completely cover your feet. No sandals allowed.
8. **PROTECT YOUR EYES:** Any time you are using chemicals, heat, glassware, or power tools, safety glasses must be worn.
9. **USE CHEMICALS CAREFULLY:** Know the hazards associated with specific chemicals before using them. Your instructor will review this information with you before each lab. Never taste or smell chemicals unless specifically instructed to do so. Never remove chemicals from the laboratory area.
10. **HANDLE EQUIPMENT AND GLASSWARE CAREFULLY:** Use caution with sharp instruments. Always cut away from your body. Never use chipped, cracked or dirty glassware. Don't immerse hot glassware in cold water. Grasp plugs, not electrical cords when removing a plug from its socket. Report damaged electrical equipment immediately. If you don't know how to use something, ask.

11. **HEAT THINGS CAREFULLY:** When using gas burners, keep hair and clothing at a safe distance from the flame at all times. Do not put anything in the flame unless specifically instructed to do so. Never reach over an exposed flame. Do not point the open end of a test tube being heated toward you or anyone else or look into a container that is being heated. Don't put hot lab apparatus directly on the laboratory bench top. Allow plenty of time for hot objects to cool before touching them.
12. **REACT QUICKLY AND APPROPRIATELY:** Report all spills, breakage and injury to your instructor immediately, even if you think it's trivial. Wait for instructions before cleaning up. If a chemical splashes in your eye(s) or on your skin, immediately flush with running water from the eyewash station or safety shower. Continue flushing until you are instructed by a teacher or nurse to stop.

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### AGREEMENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (your name), have read and agree to follow all of the safety rules set forth in this contract. I realize that I must obey these rules to ensure my own safety, and that of my fellow students and teachers. I am aware that any violation of this safety contract that results in unsafe conditions in the laboratory or misbehavior on my part, may result in being removed from the laboratory, detention, receiving a failing grade, and/or dismissal from the course.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Dear Parent or Guardian,

We feel that you should be informed regarding the school's effort to create and maintain a safe science laboratory environment.

Please read the safety instructions your child will receive before engaging in any laboratory work. No student will be permitted to perform lab activities unless this contract is signed by both the student and parent/guardian and is on file with the teacher.

Your signature on this contract indicates that you have read this Student Safety Contract and are aware of the measures taken to ensure the safety of your son/daughter in the science lab.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date