

Chemistry: Lab Safety

The chemistry laboratory is a safe place to experiment if you are careful. You must assume responsibility for the safety of yourself and your neighbors. The following rules must be followed in the laboratory!!!!!!!!!!

1. The chemistry lab is to be used for serious work. No horseplay will be tolerated!
2. Safety goggles and aprons must be worn at all times in the lab environment.
3. Study your lab assignment before you enter the lab area. If or when you doubt something ask your teacher.
 - a. Follow all written and verbal instructions carefully. If you do not understand a direction or part of a procedure ASK your teacher for clarification before continuing anything!
4. Never work alone in the laboratory. No student may work in the science classroom without the presence of a chemistry teacher.
5. When first entering the chemistry class do not touch ANY of the equipment, chemicals or other materials in the laboratory area until you are instructed to do so.
6. Make sure you understand how, where and when to use all safety equipment in the lab (eye wash, fire extinguisher, drench shower, fume hood, fire blanket, broken glass bucket, etc.)
7. Perform good housekeeping practices... work areas should be kept clean and tidy at all times.
8. Dispose of all chemical waste properly. Never mix chemicals in sink drains. Sinks are to be used for water only. Check with your teacher for disposal of chemicals and solutions used during a lab.
9. Labels and equipment instructions must be read carefully before use. Set up and use the equipment as directed by your teacher.
10. Keep hands away from face, eyes, mouth and body while using chemicals or lab equipment.
11. Report any accident or injury to your teacher immediately.
 - a. If a chemical were to get into your eye or on your skin, immediately flush with running water. Then report the situation to your teacher.
12. Do not leave an experiment at your lab station unattended.
 - a. Know what to do if there is a fire drill during a laboratory period; containers must be closed, and any electrical equipment turned off.
13. If you have long hair, keep it tied back during all lab activities. Burning hair is the number one accident in the lab.
14. Never eat or drink in the chemistry lab area. Do not EVER taste any materials for ANY reason in the chemistry room.
15. Double check before using any chemicals for your experiment. Do not return unused material to reagent bottles.
 - a. All liquids and solids in a lab are to be considered dangerous. Avoid handling chemicals with fingers. Always use tweezers. When making an observation maintain a distance of at least one foot between you and the specimen. Do not taste or smell any chemicals. If smelling is to occur the wafting technique is to be used.
16. If you spill a corrosive chemical, wash it off immediately using a sponge or paper towel and water. Wash your hands when you are done.

17. Always pour liquid chemicals or substances with the label side in your hand. That way, any drips on the container will not touch the next person's hands that need the chemical/substance.
18. Keep combustible materials away from open flames.
19. When heating a material in a test tube, make certain the mouth of the tube is pointed away from yourself and others.
20. Smother fires with paper towel or a regular towel. If clothing catches on fire, use the drench shower/eye wash station or the fire blanket.
21. Do not perform experiments that are unauthorized.
22. Never handle broken glass with your bare hands. Use a brush and dustpan to clean up broken glass. Place broken glass and solid substances in designated containers. Keep insoluble water material out of the sink.
23. Examine glassware before each use. Never use chipped, cracked or dirty glassware.
 - a. Do not immerse hot glassware in cold water. The glassware may shatter.
24. Do not operate a hot plate by yourself; teacher needs to be present to use a hot plate. Heated glassware can remain very hot for a long time. They should be set-aside in a designated place to cool, and be picked up with caution. Use tongs or heat protective gloves if necessary.
 - a. Never look into a container that is being heated.
25. Always wash your hands at the end of EACH laboratory period.
26. Dress properly during a laboratory activity. Long hair, dangling jewelry and loose or baggy clothing are a hazard in the lab. Long hair must be tied back; jewelry taken off (if long and dangling) and baggy clothes must be secured. Shoes must completely cover the foot. No sandals allowed on lab days!!!! No shorts or skirts are allowed either. We want as much skin covered as possible.
27. Always leave your lab area clean with all equipment put back where it belongs.