

Laboratory Safety Rules for Students

Laboratory safety is critical for ensuring a safe working environment and preventing accidents. Here are essential laboratory safety rules for students:

1. **Report** all accidents, injuries, and breakage of glass or equipment to instructor immediately, no matter how minor.
2. **Keep pathways clear** by placing extra items (books, bags, etc.) on the shelves or under the worktables. If under the tables, make sure that these items cannot be stepped on.
3. Long hair (chin-length or longer) must be tied back to avoid catching fire.
4. Wear sensible clothing including footwear. Loose clothing should be secured so they do not get caught in a flame or chemicals. Avoid dangling jewellery, and open-toed shoes.
5. Work quietly — know what you are doing by **reading** the assigned experiment **before** you start to work. Pay close attention to any **cautions/hazards** described in the laboratory exercises.
6. **Carefully read the labels and Safety Data Sheets (SDS)** for all chemicals you are using to understand their hazards and safe handling procedures.
7. Do not taste or smell chemicals.
8. Clearly label all containers with the name of the substance, concentration, date, and your initials.
9. **Always wear** appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as gloves, goggles, and lab coats as required by the experiment.
10. **Inspect** PPE for damage before use and replace if necessary.
11. Conduct experiments involving **volatile substances** or toxic fumes in a fume hood.
12. Do not attempt to change the position of glass tubing in a stopper.
13. **Never** point a test tube being heated at another student or yourself. Never look into a test tube while you are heating it.
14. Only perform experiments assigned by your instructor. Never conduct unauthorized experiments or work alone in the lab.
15. Keep solids out of the sink.
16. Leave your workstation clean and in good order before leaving the laboratory.
17. Return all the equipment and chemicals to their designated places. Ensure lids are tightly closed on chemical containers.
18. Don't take the chemicals or apparatus from the cupboards without the permission of the instructor.
19. Do not lean, hang over or sit on the laboratory tables.

20. Do not leave your assigned laboratory station **without permission of the teacher**. Never leave a reaction unattended, unless it is stable and safe to do so.
21. Do not attempt to fight a fire unless you are trained to do so, and it is safe.
22. For the chemical spills (large or small), alert the teacher immediately and follow the spill response procedures.
23. Familiarize yourself with the location of the fire extinguisher, eye wash station, first aid kit and safety shower.
24. Know the emergency exit routes and the procedures for evacuating the laboratory.
25. Fooling around or "horse play" in the laboratory is absolutely forbidden. Students found in violation of this safety rule will be barred from participating in future labs and could result in suspension.
26. Anyone wearing acrylic nails will not be allowed to work with matches, lighted splints, Bunsen burners, etc.
27. Do not lift any solutions, glassware or other types of apparatus above eye level.
28. Follow all instructions given by your instructor.
29. Learn how to transport all materials and equipment safely.
- 30. Never eat, drink, or store food in the laboratory to prevent contamination and accidental ingestion of hazardous substances.**
31. Dispose of chemical waste according to your instructor's guidelines and local regulations.
32. Do not pour chemicals down the sink unless instructed.
33. Use clean spatulas or pipettes to transfer chemicals to prevent contamination.
34. Check all equipment and glassware for damage before use. **Do not use** chipped or cracked glassware.
35. Handle glassware carefully to avoid breakage. Use tongs or heat-resistant gloves for handling hot glassware.
36. Keep liquids away from electrical equipment to prevent shocks and short circuits.
37. Ensure hands and work areas are dry when using electrical equipment.
38. Report any damaged electrical equipment to the teacher immediately.
39. Do not overload electrical outlets.
40. Use caution when working with open flames. Keep flammable materials away from heat sources.
41. Wash your hands thoroughly after handling chemicals, biological specimens, or lab equipment.
42. Do not touch your face, eyes, or mouth with gloved hands or before washing your hands.

Acknowledgment of Laboratory Safety Rules

I, have read and understood the laboratory safety rules. I agree to follow these rules and any additional safety instructions provided by the instructor. I understand that failure to comply with these rules may result in disciplinary actions and/or removal from the laboratory and/or cancellation of my admission.