

## Ask First, Work Second

Make sure you know what you are doing before you start working in the lab.

- **If you don't know what it is or don't understand how something works, don't touch it!**
- Don't work with chemicals or equipment you don't have training for.



Follow all procedures carefully.

## General Lab Rules

Remember, when working in the lab, many of the substances you are dealing with can be hazardous.

- Be mindful of what you are doing and never joke around in the lab.
- Never work alone in the lab.
- Bunsen burners should never be left unattended.
- Don't leave experiments while they are in progress.
- Unplug all electrical devices in the hood when they aren't in use
- Be careful with hot glassware, don't place it where others could come into contact with it and don't place it on cold surfaces.

## Report Any Problem Immediately

Let your instructor or TA know if there are problems or issues during lab.

Immediately report any accident or injury.

Report all spills, broken glass or equipment.

## Emergency Procedures

If the fire alarm goes off, or you are instructed to evacuate:

- Leave the building using the nearest exit.
- Move away from the building.
- Stay out of the driveways and don't block building access for emergency responders.

In case of an emergency or accident, follow the established emergency plan as explained by the instructor.

Know the location of all exit routes from the laboratory and building.

Know the location of and how to operate the nearest:

- Fire extinguishers and alarm pull stations
- Safety showers and eyewashes
- First-aid kits

### Environmental Health & Safety

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# LAB SAFETY



Environmental Health & Safety



## Dress for the Lab

Shorts, skirts, and open-toed shoes are not appropriate for the lab. Make sure your legs and feet are covered before you come to the lab.



Make sure to keep long hair or loose clothes out of the way when working in the lab.

Contact lenses are not recommended when working in the lab.

## Wear Your Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):

Gloves, lab coat and/or goggles are there to protect your body and clothes. You must wear all the PPE required for your lab. Make sure anything that could harm you gets on the PPE instead of you.



Remove your PPE before you leave the lab or if it becomes contaminated.

Do not reuse disposable gloves, throw them away when you're done with them.

**Always wash your hands after removing your PPE.**

## Keep Lab Items Away from Your Face



It's safe to assume that anything found in the lab is going to be bad for you if it comes into contact with your mucous membranes or is ingested!

- Never put anything in the lab in your mouth, and don't use lab glassware to hold food or drinks.
- Do not bring food or beverages into the lab.
- Do not smell chemicals.
- When heating test tubes keep them pointed away from yourself and others.
- Do not look into a test tube that is being heated.
- When opening containers make sure they are pointed away from your face.
- Don't touch your face while working in the lab.
- Never apply cosmetics or handle contact lenses while in the lab.

Clean Up All Spills

**Immediately**



## Keep Your Work Area Clean

Make sure to keep your lab bench and surrounding areas clean. Do not leave your mess for others to deal with!

- Do not place any personal items in the walkways or anywhere they could be tripped over.
- Make sure your area is clean before you leave.

## Dispose of Chemicals Properly



Accidental mixing of incompatible chemicals causes lab explosions! The photo above resulted from mixing incompatible laboratory waste.

Make sure you put your lab waste in the appropriate location!

- Check waste containers to make sure the chemicals you are adding match the chemicals on the label.
- Unknown materials must never be added to waste containers.
- Chemicals and lab waste cannot go down the drain!