

Rules of Laboratory Conduct

1. Perform laboratory work only when your teacher is present. Unauthorized or unsupervised laboratory experimenting is not allowed.
2. Your concern for safety should begin even before the first activity. Always read and think about each laboratory assignment before starting.
3. Know the location and use of all safety equipment in your laboratory. These should include the eye wash, first-aid kit, fire extinguisher, and blanket.
4. Wear protective glasses or goggles for all laboratory work. Wear shoes (rather than sandals) and tie back loose hair.
5. Clear your bench top of all unnecessary materials such as books and clothing before starting your work.
6. Check chemical labels twice to make sure you have the correct substance. Some chemical formulas and names differ by only a letter or number. Pay attention to the hazard classifications shown on the label.
7. You may be asked to transfer some laboratory chemicals from a common bottle or jar to your own test tube or beaker. **DO NOT** return any excess material to its original container unless authorized by your teacher.
8. Avoid unnecessary movement and talk in the laboratory.
9. Never taste laboratory materials. Gum, food, or drinks should not be brought into the laboratory. If you are instructed to smell something, do so by fanning some of the vapour toward your nose. Do not place your nose near the opening of the container.
10. Never look directly down into a test tube; view the contents from the side. Never point the open end of a test toward yourself or your neighbour.
11. Any laboratory accident, however small, should be reported immediately to your teacher.
12. In case of a chemical spill on your skin or clothing rinse the affected area with plenty of water. If the eyes are affected water-washing must begin immediately and continue for 10 to 15 minutes or until professional assistance is obtained.
13. Minor skin burns should be placed under cold, running water.
14. When discarding used chemicals, carefully follow the instructions provided.
15. Return equipment, chemicals, aprons, and protective glasses to their designated locations.
16. Before leaving the laboratory, ensure that gas lines and water faucets are shut off.
17. If in doubt, ask!