

SAFE SCIENCE AT HOME

Science Safety Rules Agreement

This is a draft home science safety rules agreement. Do not assume that all necessary precautions have been included here. Please send your comments for improvement to LSI (contact information above).

To ensure that science experiments at home are safe, positive learning experiences, students and parents should read, discuss, and sign this science safety rules and procedures agreement. The student, parent, and science instructor should each keep a signed copy.

1. Read and understand the lab procedure before beginning. Do not deviate from or do anything that is not part of the approved experimental procedure. Follow all instructions given by your instructor or adult supervisor.
2. Treat all chemicals with the respect they deserve. Know the hazards before you handle the material.
3. Only perform experiments described in the manual or by the instructor.
4. Be properly prepared to do the experiment. Read the written procedures in advance and understand what you are going to do. Lack of familiarity wastes your time and is a major cause of injury. Know the hazards before you do the experiment. Discuss any concerns you have with your instructor prior to doing the experiment.
5. Protect your work surface against any materials which could stain or damage countertops or furniture. All experiments should be performed on surfaces that can be easily cleaned or wiped up.
6. Do not do labs alone. Never do a lab without an adult physically present.
 - Students over 18 who live alone should schedule a video call with someone who can be “with” them while they are working.
7. Experiments should not be performed in the presence of young children.
8. If you have pets, make sure they can’t interrupt your experiment.
9. Before beginning any lab, make sure anyone in the area is wearing appropriate protective equipment. A lab coat or apron and ANSI-approved eye protection should be worn at all times. This will usually mean chemical splash goggles. In addition, gloves and faces shields should be used as appropriate.
10. Wear leather shoes that cover the entire foot. No sandals or canvas shoes. Clothing should not be loose and floppy, especially in the sleeves. Some new fabrics are highly flammable and should not be worn. Arms and legs should be covered.
11. Tie back long hair and loose clothing.
12. Have all of your materials and your lab manual within arm’s reach PRIOR to starting so you are not moving around your home more than necessary.
13. Learn the locations and operation of emergency equipment. This might include any fire extinguisher, fire blanket, sinks (for eye and hand wash), and first aid supplies. Know what to do in case of emergency.

14. Act in a responsible manner at all times. No horseplay should occur in the lab or experiment area.
15. Never taste, eat or drink a chemical. Check odors only if instructed to do so, by gently wafting some of the vapor towards your nose with your hand.
16. Be sure your work area is well-ventilated and free of clutter, with plenty of room to work.
17. Do not perform any experiments near open flames, unless instructed to do so.
18. Turn off your Bunsen burner or other heat source whenever you are not using it. Never let it operate unattended.
19. Read the warning labels very carefully. Read them 3 times: before you pick it up, when you pick it up, and just before you use it. Many mistakes, some dangerous mistakes, result from mixing the wrong chemicals. Review SDSs if they are available.
20. Smoking, eating, drinking, and storing food in the lab or experimental work area are forbidden.
21. Report all accidents, injuries, and close calls to both your instructor and adult supervisor immediately.
22. Dispose of chemicals properly. Nothing goes down the drain. Containers should be available for waste chemicals. Broken glass goes in special puncture resistant receptacles.
23. Never return unused reagents to the reagent bottle. Be careful to take only what you actually need. Do not contaminate the reagents.
24. If you can clean up a spill without injuring yourself or anyone else, and it is not an emergency and not likely to become an emergency, clean it up. Otherwise, evacuate and let trained personnel clean it up.
25. List your allergies on the bottom of this page. If the experiment deals with something to which you are allergic, consult with both your instructor and adult supervisor.
26. Never take chemicals, supplies, or equipment home without the knowledge and consent of the instructor.
27. If chemicals splash on your skin or body, wash off immediately and for 15 minutes. Remove contaminated clothing immediately. Notify both your instructor and adult supervisor.
28. Treat burns immediately by putting the burned area under cold water for at least 15 minutes.
29. Always clean your experiment area when you are finished. Put away all equipment and reagents.
30. Wash your hands at the end of each work session.
31. Science kits and all contents should be stored so that small children or pets can't reach them.
32. If you have any questions or confusion around the experiment or the procedure(s), DO NOT proceed until you seek clarification from your instructor.

I, _____ have read, understand, agree to follow these science safety rules and procedures. I agree to abide by any additional instructions, written or verbal, provided by my science instructor or adult supervisor. I realize that my failure to follow these rules and instruction may result in my permanent suspension from this class.

Student's Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

Parent's Signature _____ Date ____/____/____

* List any allergies or medical problems that your instructor should be aware of:
