

6th Grade Science Laboratory Rules

1. Conduct yourself in a responsible manner at all times in the laboratory.
2. Follow all written and verbal instructions carefully. If you do not understand a direction or part of a procedure, ask the instructor before proceeding.
3. Never work alone. No student may work in the laboratory without an instructor present.
4. When first entering a science room, do not touch any equipment, chemicals, or other materials in the laboratory area until you are instructed to do so.
5. Do not eat food, drink beverages, or chew gum in the laboratory.
6. Perform only those experiments authorized by the instructor. Never do anything in the laboratory that is not called for in the laboratory procedures or by your instructor.
7. Carefully follow all instructions, both written and oral.
8. Never fool around in the laboratory. Horseplay, practical jokes, and pranks are dangerous and are not allowed.
9. Know the locations and operating procedures of all safety equipment including the first aid kit, eyewash station, safety shower, fire extinguisher, electrical receptacle button, emergency call buttons, and fire blanket.
10. Know where the fire alarm and the exits are located.
11. Be alert and proceed with caution at all times in the laboratory. Notify the instructor immediately of any unsafe conditions you observe.
12. Dispose of all chemical waste properly. Sinks are to be used only for water unless otherwise instructed by the teacher. Solid chemicals, salt, sand, metals, matches, filter paper, and all other non-water materials are to be thrown away in the trash.
13. Keep hands away from face, eyes, mouth, and body while using chemicals or specimens. Wash your hands with soap and water after performing all experiments. Clean all work surfaces and materials at the end of the experiment. Return all equipment clean and in working order to the proper storage area.
14. Experiments must be personally watched and observed at all times. You will be assigned a laboratory station at which to work. Do not wander around the room, distract other students, or interfere with the laboratory experiments of others.
15. Know what to do if there is an evacuation drill during a laboratory period; containers must be closed, any electrical equipment must be turned off and/or unplugged, and any open flames must be blown out or extinguished.
16. Handle all living and nonliving organisms used in a laboratory with respect and care.
17. When using knives and other sharp instruments, always carry with tips and points pointing down and away. Always cut away from your body. Never try to catch falling sharp instruments. Grasp sharp instruments only by the handles.
18. Any time chemicals, heat, or glassware are used, students will wear laboratory goggles. There will be no exceptions to this rule!

19. Contact lenses may only be worn during a lab if you first inform the instructor.
20. Dress properly during a laboratory activity. Long hair, dangling jewelry, and loose or baggy clothing are a hazard in the laboratory. Long hair must be tied back and dangling jewelry and loose or baggy clothing must be secured. Shoes must completely cover the foot. No flip-flops are allowed.
21. Report any accidents (spills, breakages, etc.) or injuries (cuts, burns, etc.) to the instructor immediately, no matter how small or minor they may appear.
22. If a chemical splashes in your eyes or on your skin, notify the instructor immediately. You may be instructed to rinse with running water from the eyewash station or safety shower for at least 20 minutes.
23. All chemicals in the laboratory are to be considered dangerous. Do not touch, taste, or smell any chemicals unless specifically instructed to do so. The proper technique for smelling chemical fumes will be demonstrated to you.
24. Check the label on chemical bottles twice before removing any of the contents. Take only as much chemical as you need.
25. Never return unused chemicals to their original containers.
26. Never remove chemicals or other materials from the laboratory area.
27. Carry glass tubing, especially long pieces, in a vertical position to prevent breakage and injury.
28. Never handle broken glass with your bare hands. Inform the instructor immediately. Broken or ruined glassware will be placed in the designated glass disposal container.
29. When removing an electrical plug from its socket, grasp the plug, not the electrical cord. Hands must be completely dry before touching an electrical switch, plug, or outlet.
30. Report damaged electrical equipment immediately. Look for things such as frayed cords, exposed wires, and loose connections. Do not use damaged electrical equipment.
31. If you do not understand how to use a piece of equipment, ask the instructor for help.
32. Do not place hot glassware in cold water; it may shatter.
33. Exercise extreme caution when using a gas burner. Take care that hair, clothing, and hands are a safe distance from the flame at all times. Do not put any substance into the flame unless specifically instructed to do so. Never reach over an exposed flame. Light gas (or alcohol) burners only as instructed by the teacher.
34. Never leave a lit burner unattended. Never leave anything that is being heated or is visibly reacting unattended. Always turn the burner or hot plate off when not in use.