

Chemistry Laboratory Safety Contract 2025-2026



Science is a process of discovering and exploring the natural world. As part of our chemistry class, you will be doing many activities and investigations that will involve the use of various materials, equipment, and chemicals. Safety in the science laboratory is the **FIRST PRIORITY** for instructors and students.



To ensure safer classroom and laboratory experiences, the following **Chemistry Laboratory Safety Contract** has been developed for the protection and safety of all. Your teacher will provide additional rules for specific situations or settings. After you have reviewed them yourself, read and review the rules and regulations with your guardian. Your signature indicates that you have read these rules and regulations, understand them, and agree to follow them at all times while working in the laboratory.

A - Standards of Student Conduct

1. Conduct yourself in a responsible manner at all times in the laboratory. Frivolous activities, mischievous behavior, throwing items, and conducting pranks are prohibited.
2. Lab and safety information and procedures **must** be read ahead of time. All verbal and written instructions shall be followed in carrying out the activity or investigation.
3. Eating, drinking, gum chewing, applying cosmetics, and other unsafe activities are not permitted in the laboratory. This applies even when a lab is not being conducted.
4. Unauthorized activities or investigations are prohibited. Unsupervised work is not permitted. (This means no mixing chemicals without instructor permission!)
5. Removing chemicals or equipment from the laboratory is prohibited unless authorized by the instructor.

B - Personal Safety

6. Chemical safety goggles shall be worn at all times during laboratory activities, including clean-up, unless the instructor specifically states that the activity does not require them.
7. All accidents, chemical spills, and injuries must be reported immediately to the instructor, no matter how trivial they may seem at the time. Follow your instructor's directions for immediate treatment.
8. Dress appropriately for laboratory work by protecting your body with clothing and shoes. Do not wear loose or baggy clothing or dangling jewelry on laboratory days. Long hair should be tied back and sandals or open-toes shoes are not to be worn during lab activities. If in doubt, ask!
9. Know the location of all safety equipment in the room. This includes eye wash stations, the safety shower, fire extinguishers, the fume hood, and the safety blanket. Know the location of emergency master electric and gas shut offs and exits.
10. When an activity or investigation requires the use of laboratory gloves for hand protection, the gloves shall be worn **throughout** the activity.

C - Specific Safety Precautions Involving Chemicals and Lab Equipment

11. Avoid inhaling fumes that may be generated during an activity or investigation. Waft, don't sniff.
12. Proper procedures shall be followed when using any heating or flame-producing device including gas burners. Never leave a heat source or flame unattended.
13. Remember that hot glass looks the same as cold glass. After heating, glass remains hot for a very long time. Determine if an object is hot by placing your hand close to the object but do not touch it.
14. Should a fire drill or other evacuation emergency occur during an investigation or activity, make sure you turn off all gas burners and electrical equipment and exit the room as directed.
15. Always read chemical bottle labels twice before you use them. Be certain you use the correct chemicals.
16. Replace the top on any chemical bottle as soon as you have finished using it and return it to the designated location.
17. Do not return unused chemicals to the original container unless authorized. Follow the instructor's directions for the storage or disposal of these materials.

D - Standards For Maintaining a Safe Laboratory Environment

18. Backpacks and books are to remain in an area designated by the instructor.
19. Never sit on laboratory tables.
20. Work areas should be kept clean and neat at all times. Work surfaces are to be cleaned at the end of each laboratory or activity.
21. Follow your instructor's directions for disposal of waste. Solid chemicals, metals, matches, broken glass, and other materials designated by the instructor are to be deposited in proper waste containers, not the sink.
22. Sinks are to be used only during lab activities. They sometimes contain dirty glassware and are **not** trash receptacles.
23. Glassware is to be washed with warm, soapy water and scrubbed with the appropriate type and sized brush, rinsed, dried, and returned to its original location.
24. Goggles are to be worn during the activity or investigation, during clean up, and through hand washing.
25. If in doubt, ask!

Click [HERE](#) to sign off the you read through this with a parent or guardian.