



Eighth Grade Science Laboratory Safety Rules

The scientific laboratory is a place of adventure and discovery. Some of the most important events in scientific history have happened in laboratories. The antibiotic powers of penicillin were discovered in a laboratory. Plastics used today for clothing and other products were first made in a laboratory. The list is endless.

One of the first things any scientist learns is that working in the laboratory can be an exciting experience. However, the laboratory can also be quite dangerous if proper safety rules are not followed at all times. In order to prepare yourself for a safe year in the laboratory, read the following safety rules. Then read them a second time. If you do not understand each rule, ask your teacher to explain any rule that is unclear.

Dress Code

1. Tie back long hair.
2. Remove dangling jewelry.
3. Do not wear loose, billowy clothing.
4. Wear closed-toed shoes; sandals don't protect your feet.

Laboratory Behavior

1. Read all directions for an experiment several times. Listen carefully during the pre-lab. Ask questions if you do not understand any part of the experiment. Follow the directions **exactly** as they are written.
2. Make sure the work area has been cleared of purses, books, jackets, etc.
3. Before starting the lab, be aware of all safety precautions and know the location of all safety equipment.
4. Do not speak loudly or engage in horseplay in the laboratory.
5. Never eat or drink in the laboratory.

Safety During the Laboratory Lesson

1. Never perform activities that are not authorized by your teacher.
2. Do not handle any equipment unless you have permission.
3. Wear safety goggles, lab aprons, and protective gloves when required.
4. Take extreme care not to spill or break any material in the laboratory.

Clean-up procedure

1. Follow your teacher's instructions for proper disposal of chemicals; **do not** pour anything down the drain unless instructed to do so.
2. Do not work alone in the lab.
3. Report all accidents to your teacher **immediately**.

End-of-Experiment Rules

1. Clean up your work area and return all equipment to its proper place.
2. Wash your hands after every experiment.

updated 07/23/2001

