

Chemistry Lab Safety Rules!

- 1.** Always read and listen to the lab instructions before doing the procedure. Follow written and verbal instructions carefully. If you want to try something that isn't in the procedure, obtain permission from your teacher beforehand.
- 2.** For most labs, you will be instructed to wear safety goggles. When this is the case, keep goggles on during the entire lab, including during cleanup.
- 3.** When disposing of chemicals, always follow instructions for where to dispose of things. It matters! The procedure might tell you to dispose of things in the trash, down the sink, in a beaker in the sink that contains baking soda, in the T.H.I.N.K. tank, or in another specific waste container. If you are unsure, just ask!
- 4.** If you obtain chemicals directly from the original supply bottle, if you get too much, do NOT return the extra to the supply bottle. Ask your teacher what to do with it. Treat the distilled water bottles as if they are original supply bottles – do NOT pour extra water back in if you get too much.
- 5.** Do not eat or drink in the laboratory.
You are not a 17th century alchemist, so do not ever taste the chemicals!
- 6.** If you need to investigate the smell of a chemical, do NOT take a big whiff! Instead, use your hand to gently “waft” the vapor toward your nose.
- 7. Hot Stuff! Bunsen Burner Safety**
 - a.** When lighting a burner, make sure you can reliably make a spark with the lighter BEFORE you turn on the gas.
 - b.** Never leave a lighted Bunsen burner unattended.
 - c.** Keep long hair pulled back, lest your head catch fire and burn to a toasty crisp.
 - d.** When we use the burners, the lab glassware can reach temperatures over 1000°C. USE TONGS if you need to move the hot glassware. Don't put hot glassware on the lab counters; it will make a hole in the counter. Wait for glassware to cool completely before weighing.
 - e.** When heating materials in a test-tube, point the opening of the tube away from yourself and others!
- 8.** We have two eye-washes in the lab. Learn where these are, and how to use them.
(Your teacher will show the class how to use these.)
- 9.** Accidents: Report any accidents or injuries to your teacher immediately.
- 10.** Balances: Be gentle with the balances! Don't put chemicals directly onto the balance. If you are weighing powder, put weighing paper on the balance first. (Then re-zero the balance before adding powder.)
- 11.** When diluting concentrated acids: Do this in the fume hood and wear gloves and goggles. Fill the container about halfway with distilled water before you add the concentrated acid to the container. Then you can add more water as needed to fill the container. Never add the concentrated acid first, as explosive fumes can occur! (This rule will only be needed if you are in AP chem.)
- 12.** “Horseplay” will not be tolerated. Don't be a distraction to your classmates! Don't squirt each other with water bottles, flick water at someone, run, skip, jump, square dance, or do other distracting/annoying things!
- 13.** At the end of lab, clean all equipment and clean your lab area. Return materials to where they belong as instructed by your teacher.