

Laboratory Rules

The biggest danger in the lab is **YOU!** You are at risk when you don't understand the hazards or you are careless, or both. The person most likely to suffer from your mistakes is **YOU!**

Report any accident or breakage to your teacher.

1. Only **enter a lab** when told to do so by a teacher. Never rush about or throw things in the lab. Keep your bench and floor area clear, with bags and coats well out of the way (in the racks provided)
2. **Follow instructions** precisely; check bottle labels carefully and keep tops on bottles except when pouring liquids from them; only touch or use equipment and materials when told to do so by a teacher; never remove anything from the lab without permission.
3. Wear **eye protection** when told to do so and keep it on from the very start until all practical work is finished and cleared away.
4. When using naked **flames** (eg, Bunsen or spirit burners or candles), make sure that ties, hair, baggy clothing etc are tied back or tucked away.
5. Always **stand up** when working with hazardous substances or when heating things so you can quickly move out of the way if you need to.
6. **Never taste anything** or put anything in your mouth in the laboratory. If you get something in your mouth, spit it out at once and wash your mouth out with lots of water. Tell your teacher.
7. If small amounts of chemicals or microbiological cultures get on your hands or any other part of the body, **wash** them off. Wash your hands after work with chemicals or with animal or vegetable matter.
8. If you are burnt or a chemical splashes on your skin, **wash** the affected part at once with lots of water. Then tell your teacher.
9. Never put waste solids in the **sink**. Put them in the correct bin unless your teacher instructs you otherwise.
10. **Wipe up all small spills** with a damp cloth and report bigger ones to your teacher.