

Lab Safety Checklist

A science lab safety checklist covering PPE, chemicals, equipment and emergencies.

Personal protective equipment

- ☐ Confirm enough safety goggles for every student.
- ☐ Provide lab coats or aprons in working condition.
- ☐ Stock gloves suited to the materials in use.
- ☐ Require closed-toe shoes and tied-back hair.
- ☐ Check goggles and gloves for damage before use.
- ☐ Demonstrate correct fit and removal of PPE.

Chemical handling and storage

- ☐ Confirm all chemicals are labeled clearly.
- ☐ Store reactive chemicals separated by compatibility.
Never store incompatible substances together.
- ☐ Keep chemicals locked and away from students.
- ☐ Maintain a current chemical inventory.
- ☐ Keep safety data sheets accessible in the lab.
- ☐ Provide proper disposal containers for waste.

Equipment and apparatus

- ☐ Inspect glassware for cracks and chips.
- ☐ Test burners, hot plates and heat sources.
- ☐ Check the fume hood is working and airflow is clear.
- ☐ Confirm electrical equipment and cords are safe.
- ☐ Verify gas valves shut off fully.
- ☐ Keep work surfaces clean and uncluttered.

Emergency preparedness

- ☐ Test the eyewash station and safety shower.
- ☐ Confirm the fire extinguisher is charged and accessible.
- ☐ Keep a fire blanket within easy reach.
- ☐ Stock and check the first-aid kit.
- ☐ Keep exits and emergency paths clear.
- ☐ Post emergency procedures and contact numbers.

Student conduct rules

- ☐ Brief students on safety rules before each session.
- ☐ Review hazards specific to the day's experiment.
- ☐ Prohibit eating, drinking and horseplay in the lab.
- ☐ Require following written and verbal procedures.
- ☐ Collect signed student safety agreements.
- ☐ Confirm students know where safety equipment is.