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.