



# At-Home Science Safety General Guidelines Grades K-12

SAFETY FIRST



Dear Student, Parent/Guardian:

In order to provide and maintain a learning and working environment that is as safe as possible for you, your science teacher will:

- exercise reasonable judgment when conducting laboratory investigations;
- minimize, if not eliminate risk by using virtual laboratory simulations/investigations;
- accept the **duty of care** to provide all students and staff with the safest environment possible when performing hands-on science investigations or demonstrations in the classroom or at-home setting.

To ensure that science experiments at home are safe, positive learning experiences, students and parents should read, discuss, and sign this science safety rules and procedures agreement. The student, parent, and science instructor should each keep a copy for their records.

1. Read and understand the lab procedure before beginning. Do not deviate from or do anything that is not part of the approved experimental procedure. Read the written procedures in advance and understand what you are going to do. Lack of familiarity wastes your time and is a major cause of injury. Know the potential hazards before you do the experiment. Follow all instructions given by your instructor or adult supervisor.
2. Only perform experiments recommended by your instructor.
3. Be properly prepared to do the experiment by having all necessary materials and the directions readily available. Do not substitute any materials without getting approval from your teacher. Discuss any concerns you have with your instructor prior to doing the experiment.
4. Make sure you pay close attention to any safety warnings your teacher discusses as they relate to the experiment.
5. Protect your work surface against any materials which could stain or damage countertops or furniture. All experiments should be performed on surfaces that can be easily cleaned or wiped up.
6. When doing an experiment in distance learning instruction, be sure to activate your video component to insure appropriate teacher supervision.
7. If you have siblings and/or pets, make sure they can't interrupt your experiment or distract you.
8. In most cases, at-home experiments assigned by a teacher would probably be considered extremely low-risk and NOT require protective eyewear. IF your teacher requires you to participate in an experiment that requires protective eyewear (i.e. goggles), the school must provide them. As an alternative to this, your teacher may demonstrate the experiment and/or videotape it for your observation.
9. When doing at-home experiments, you should wear closed-toed shoes and clothing should not be loose and floppy, but arms and legs should be covered. Tie back long hair.



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10. Prior to doing any at-home experiments, review with your parents your family’s emergency evacuation plan and location of a first aid kit.
11. Act in a responsible manner at all times. No horseplay should occur in the experiment area.
12. Never taste, eat or drink any materials you work with in an experiment. Eating, drinking, and storing food in your work area are forbidden during the experiment.
13. Be sure your work area is free of clutter, with plenty of room to work.
14. Heat sources (i.e. candles, matches, stove/oven) are not recommended for at-home science. However, some experiments may require use of hot/warm water from your tap--be careful when using anything with extreme temperatures. Be sure to follow all safety guidelines provided by your teacher. If you burn yourself, treat immediately by putting the burned area under cold water for at least 15 minutes.
15. Report all accidents, injuries, and close calls to both your teacher and parents/guardian immediately.
16. List your allergies on the bottom of this page. If any experiment deals with something to which you are allergic, be sure to tell your teacher BEFORE the experiment begins.
17. Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds BEFORE and AFTER every experiment. Be sure to clean your work surfaces with an appropriate disinfectant frequently.
18. If your teacher/school provides you with a science kit, it should be stored so that small children or pets can’t reach them.
19. If you have any questions or confusion around the experiment or the procedure(s), DO NOT proceed until you seek clarification from your teacher.
20. Be extremely careful when navigating the internet. Only open links that are reliable, safe and recommended by your teacher and/or parent/guardian for purposes of instruction.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ have read, understand, agree to follow these science safety rules and procedures. I agree to abide by any additional instructions, written or verbal, provided by my science instructor or adult supervisor. I realize that my failure to follow these rules and instructions may result in my permanent suspension from this class.

Student’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\* List any allergies or medical problems that your teacher should be aware of:



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## Acknowledgements:

- The Laboratory Safety Institute- Safe Science at Home, Science Safety Rules Agreement
- NSTA Position Statement- Liability of Science Teachers for Laboratory Science
- When in doubt about safety and liability issues related to any hands-on activities, refer to the [Science Safety Handbook for California Public Schools](#).