

Student Safety Contract

by Frey Scientific

Although any safety contract needs to be customized to the circumstances of a particular classroom, the Frey Scientific Student Safety Contract emphasizes general safety guidelines which, when followed, will ensure the safety of students and teachers. Since true science is hands-on, inquiry-based experimentation, students must conduct experiments in an appropriate manner, as modeled by teachers and other scientists. In modeling communication as being critical to the methods of science, Frey Scientific recommends that each student be given two copies of this contract with instructions to discuss safety rules with his/her parent(s)/guardian(s). The student should then return one copy to the teacher, signed by both the student and parent/guardian in agreement to obey the safety rules. The student and parent can retain the second copy for future reference.

General Rules

1. These rules are designed to ensure the safety of all in the laboratory; thus they should not be compromised.
2. Appropriate, responsible conduct is mandatory at all times in the laboratory.
3. No unauthorized experiments may be conducted and horse-play/pranks are inappropriate.
4. Both written and verbal instructions may be given and must be followed. Please ask for clarification about procedures or hazards before proceeding.
5. Students are not permitted to work in the laboratory alone. An instructor must be present.
6. Do not enter the laboratory prior to the instructed time. Please do not disturb any lab apparatus, which may have been set up by the instructor prior to class.
7. Due to potential for accidental contamination, food, gum and beverages should not be brought into or eaten in the laboratory.
8. Pre-lab exercises are designed to familiarize the student with the experiment prior to conducting the lab. Proper preparation is necessary to understand the procedures and to determine if clarification is needed.
9. Do not clutter your work area and properly clean and maintain your equipment.
10. Assist the teacher in keeping walkways clear and know the locations and operating procedures of safety equipment in the laboratory and classroom. These include fire extinguishers, eyewash and safety shower station, first aid kit, etc.
11. When working with volatile chemicals, which generate fumes that may be poisonous or annoying, use a properly functioning fume-hood with the sash in a lowered position.
12. Check with your instructor for the proper method of disposal of chemicals. With the exception of those identified by the teacher, do not wash chemicals down the sink drains. It is better to double check than to regret a mistake. Paper and other wastes should be discarded in the appropriately labeled trash receptacle. Again, verify the instructions and labels before disposing of wastes.
13. When using chemicals or preserved specimens, avoid accidental ingestion and exposure by wearing chemical splash safety goggles and lab aprons. Goggles should also be worn whenever heating or using glassware. Treat each chemical as if it is hazardous and thoroughly wash hands with soap and water, including under fingernails. Avoid touching your face, especially your eyes or mouth, when working with chemicals. Your teacher will instruct students when chemicals are to be smelled and will demonstrate the proper "wafting" technique to safely smell chemicals. According to your teacher's instructions, properly clean your work area when finished with your experiment.
14. Remain at your workstation in the laboratory and do not distract others. Failure to do so could cause an accident.
15. Students should NEVER be allowed to enter science storage rooms. As a general rule, teachers should keep these areas locked and not ask students to enter these areas.
16. In the event of emergency alarms, such as fire alarms, gas valves should be closed and fume hoods should be turned off to reduce danger.
17. When working with live or preserved animals, specimens should be treated with respect which includes treating them humanely and disposing of them properly.
18. Scalpels and sharp objects should be inspected by the teacher for each use and carried point-downward by their handles. Remember: Scalpels are used similarly to sketching a line with a pencil away from you and lab partners, not as steak knives.
19. Since contact lenses float on a layer of tears in which fumes can dissolve and be trapped in contact with the eye, contact lenses should not be permitted in the laboratory. Parents/guardians must help enforce this rule. The teacher should notify students at least one day in advance to allow students to arrange to wear glasses for that session.
20. Clothing, hair and dangling jewelry need to be secured so as to avoid dangling into burner flames and equipment. Since they do not cover the feet completely, sandals should be avoided in the laboratory.

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