

# Lab Safety

How can you practice safety in the lab?

**Behavior** Lab safety begins with proper behavior. Never fool around in the lab. Be sure to follow all instructions you are given. If you are unsure of any instruction, ask your teacher for help. Keep your work area neat and organized. Wash your hands at the end of all investigations. Notify your teacher if you observe broken equipment, spills, or any other potentially dangerous situation.

**Clothing** Always wear an **apron** and **safety goggles**. These items protect your clothing and eyes from harmful materials. When using a Bunsen burner, tie back long hair and secure loose clothing. Use **heat-resistant gloves** or **beaker tongs** when handling hot objects. Wear **disposable plastic gloves** when working with organisms or chemicals.

**Procedures** Never eat or drink in the lab. Clean up water spills right away. Tell your teacher if you spill something that is not water. When heating substances, always make sure the opening of the container is not pointed toward anyone. Cut away from your body when using scissors, knives, or

scalpels. Never use an electrical appliance, such as a hot plate, near water.

**Plants and Animals** Learn to recognize and avoid poisonous plants. Tell your teacher if you have allergies to plants, mold, animals, latex, or other substances. Always treat animals humanely and never touch an animal unless you are told to do so. If working outdoors, wear clothing that covers your arms and legs.

**Chemicals** Never touch, taste, or smell chemicals. Never use a chemical that is in an unlabeled container. Read labels to become aware of poison symbols or other warnings. Use chemicals only in well-ventilated areas. Do not pour unused chemicals down the sink. Ask your teacher how to dispose of them.

**Accidents** Report all accidents to your teacher immediately. Know where the fire extinguisher and fire blanket are and how to use them. Know where the first-aid kit is located.

## Show What You Know

Label the picture to show all the different safety measures students are taking as they work in the lab.



Safety in the lab