

# Health and Safety

## Teacher Checklist for Science Classrooms

A teacher's classroom environment can influence student health and learning. Science classrooms can be very especially hazardous. As an "Operator" or "Person in Charge" of that space, teachers have an important role in ensuring that the classroom environment is both healthy and safe. We have created the Teacher Checklist for Classrooms to help inform you on how to make sure your classroom is the healthiest and safest place for student learning.

Use the Teacher Checklist for classrooms to help ensure your classroom is the healthiest and safest place for student learning and meets the Washington State health and safety rules and guidelines for science classrooms (WAC 246-366).

### Science Classroom Safety

- Personal protective equipment provided and worn
- Written and documented lab safety orientation given to all students
- Adequate lighting above benches (all lights on)
- Emergency and master shut-off switches operable (have been tested) and labeled
- Warm water, soap, and paper towels at hand washing sinks

### Emergency Eye Washes and Showers

- Eye washes and showers accessible (not blocked by equipment, projects, etc.)
- Eye washes flushed **weekly** (ensure clean and adequate flow, working valves)
- Eye washes and showers inspected **annually** (ensure operation as designed)

### Chemicals

- Chemicals organized using a recognized system (e.g., Flinn, Baker, etc.)
- Incompatible chemicals separated
- Acids stored in an acid cabinet; non-compatible acids stored alone (e.g., nitric, acetic)
- Flammables stored in a flammable cabinet
- Lab only uses chemicals designated by OSPI/DOH as suitable for use in K-12 schools
  - Chemicals designated in K-12 Guide Appendix D Table 1 as unsuitable have been removed\*
  - Chemicals listed in K-12 Guide Appendix D Table 2 limited to small/micro quantities in advanced level high school science only\*
- MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) available for each chemical
- All containers labeled with contents
- Chemical inventory updated (copy kept in the main office)
- Chemical hygiene plan updated and readily available to staff and students
- Chemical spill cleanup plan and cleanup kit updated and readily available

### Ventilation

- Fume hoods tested **quarterly** (ensure contaminants exhausted away from user)
- Fume hoods clear (not used for storage of chemicals, experiments, etc.)

### General Classroom Safety

- Room kept free from clutter and easily cleanable
- Sources of odors eliminated and proper ventilation used
- Vents open and unblocked
- Maintenance notified of air quality concerns/questions
- School/district policy for classroom cleaners/chemicals reviewed

### Important Science Classroom Health and Safety Links:

\*DOH/OSPI Guide for K-12 Schools in Washington

[www.k12.wa.us/SchFacilities/Publications/pubdocs/CompleteSafety&HealthManual2002-2003.pdf](http://www.k12.wa.us/SchFacilities/Publications/pubdocs/CompleteSafety&HealthManual2002-2003.pdf)

DOSH Directive 13.0 Emergency Washing Facilities [www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Rules/Policies/PDFs/DD1300.pdf](http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety/Rules/Policies/PDFs/DD1300.pdf)

WA State Department of Health School Environment Health and Safety Program

[www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/EnvironmentalHealth.aspx](http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/Schools/EnvironmentalHealth.aspx)



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