

School Environmental Health and Safety

Teacher Checklist for Science Classrooms

Teachers have an important role in ensuring that the classroom environment supports the health and safety of students. Environmental health and safety in schools is vital to the educational success and overall well-being of students. Poor conditions can interfere with learning and cause preventable absences. This checklist is provided as a guide to help ensure science and lab classrooms meet the guidelines in the Health and Safety Guide for K-12 Schools in Washington* and the Environmental Standards for Primary and Secondary Schools in Washington Administrative Code 246-366**.

Science and Lab Classroom Safety



- Written and documented lab safety orientation given to all students and staff
- Personal protective equipment provided and worn at all times
- Adequate lighting above benches (at least 50 foot-candles)
- Warm water, soap and paper towels provided at handwashing sinks
- Fume hoods tested **quarterly** to ensure contaminants exhausted properly
- Fume hoods are clear and not used for storage
- Vents are open and not blocked
- Only school/district approved cleaners and chemicals are used
- Electrical outlets within 6 feet of sinks are GFCI protected
- Fire blanket and first aid kit readily available
- No food or drinks allowed

Emergency Eye Washes and Showers

- Eye washes and showers are accessible and not blocked
- Eye washes are flushed **weekly** to ensure clean and adequate flow
- Eye washes and showers are inspected **annually** to ensure proper operation
- Room kept uncluttered



Chemical Safety



- Chemical Hygiene Plan updated and available to staff and students
- Chemical spill cleanup plan and clean up kit updated and readily available
- Chemical inventory and lab floor plan updated (copy kept in the main office)
- SDS (Safety Data Sheet) available for each chemical
- All containers properly labeled with contents
- Chemicals organized using recognized system (e.g., Flynn, Baker, etc.)
- Incompatible chemicals are separated
- Acids stored in and acid cabinet; non-compatible acids stored alone (e.g., nitric, acetic)
- Flammables stored in a flammable cabinet
- Chemical store room has self-closing door and is lockable
- Class only uses chemicals designated by OSPI/DOH as suitable for use in K-12 schools (**unsuitable** chemicals listed in K-12 Guide Appendix D Table 1* have been properly removed and disposed)
- Chemicals listed in K-12 Guide Appendix D Table 2* limited to small/micro quantities in advanced level high school science only

*[Health and Safety Guide for K-12 Schools in Washington](#) (State Department of Health and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction).

**[Washington Administrative Code 246-366](#) Primary and Secondary Schools Environmental Standards.