

Macalester College Chemistry Department Laboratory Regulations

The following four lab safety rules are not negotiable. All lab instructors and teaching assistants will vigorously enforce them:

- (1) You must wear safety goggles, or safety glasses with side shields, whenever any lab you are in is being used. If you have forgotten to bring your goggles to lab, you will be sent home to retrieve them.
- (2) You may not wear footwear that exposes any part of your bare foot. If you are not wearing safe shoes, you will be sent home to change them.
- (3) Absolutely, positively, no eating or drinking inside the lab at any time. Wash your hands thoroughly and go completely outside the lab before you put anything in your mouth.
- (4) Wash your hands before leaving the lab room to do something else, or to go home.

Also be aware of the following:

- Routes of chemical exposure: Inhalation, absorption through skin, injection, or ingestion. Be careful not to rub your eyes or touch your face. Be especially careful with reagents like fuming nitric acid and concentrated hydrogen peroxide.
- If your skin is exposed to a chemical, rinsing with lots of water is almost always the best first response. Please tell your instructor or teaching assistant if this happens.
- Know where the eye wash is, and how to use it—your eyes must be kept open for them to get rinsed!
- Know where the safety shower is, and how to use it. You must remove all contaminated clothing.
- Be careful not to let your skin touch hot items like crucibles and tongs.
- Know where the phone is to call for emergency help.
- Glass breakage: Do not clean it up yourself. Tell your instructor or teaching assistant, who will clean it up for you.
- Keep jackets and backpacks away from the lab benches. Put them by the white board or next to the coat rack in the analytical balance room.
- Soap is not unsafe, but it does make glassware rather basic, even if you rinse thoroughly. Use soap only to clean out organic substances if instructed to. (Elbow grease with a brush will often suffice.)