

SCIENCE CLASSROOM SAFETY TIPS

Snohomish County Health inspectors visit science labs at every school in the County every other year. Here are some tips to get you ready for your next inspection.

01 CLASSROOM

- Make sure the eye wash is tested weekly, has sufficient flow and testing documentation is kept nearby. Keep the area around the eye wash and safety shower clear.
- The first aid kit and fire blanket should be visible, or the location identified with a sign.
- Do not store chemicals in the fume hood.
- Ensure the emergency gas shut off switch is properly labelled.
- Make sure there is a designated handwashing sink in the lab, with soap and paper towels.



02 PREP ROOM

- Make sure the door is always locked. It should be self-closing.
- Do not store chemicals on higher shelves (5'4" and above).
- All old chemicals should be properly disposed of as hazardous waste through a vendor.
- All chemicals need to be labelled properly.
- Flammables should be stored in flammable cabinet, acids in the acid cabinet. Nitric acid should be stored away from other acids.
- Organize chemicals by property. Make sure the prep room is kept clean and tidy. There should be no chemical spills and no corrosion on bottles.
- Don't keep personal food in science rooms. Lab refrigerators should be used for experiments only.
- Have a current chemical inventory, Hygiene Plan, and SDS sheets available.
- Mercury (including thermometers) is not allowed in schools!

03 DURING EXPERIMENTS

- Make sure proper PPE is worn by students (goggles and lab coats, etc.) depending on hazards in the experiment.
- Closed-toed shoes should be worn in the lab and hair should be tied back. Jewelry shouldn't be worn if it presents a safety hazard.
- Adult supervision is required throughout all instructional periods in science laboratories.
- If glass is broken, keep it in a container with a lid until it can be disposed of.
- If waste is generated, store it in a closed and labelled container. Do not store it in the hood.



**SNOHOMISH
COUNTY** 
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

If you have any questions concerning these guidelines, please contact the School Health and Safety Team at EHSchools@snoco.org.