



# General Laboratory Safety Rules

AgriBiotechnology  
Research & Development

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- **IMMEDIATELY report any accident to the instructor.**
- **Always wear personal protective equipment**, such as goggles, apron, and gloves, while performing a lab activity.
- **Know exactly where the safety devices and emergency supplies are located in the classroom**, including the first aid kit, the eyewash station, a fire blanket and/or a fire extinguisher.
- **Be serious and attentive during all lab procedures.** Read labels and any safety information that is provided. Immediately remedy situations that you believe might lead to accidents. Use common sense and proceed with caution.
- **Never use only your hands to pick up broken glass.** Use a brush or broom and a dustpan or other mechanical method (tongs, clamps, and so on).
- **Treat all chemicals as if they were poisons or corrosives.** Do not ever perform unauthorized experiments.
- **Never mix, touch, taste, or smell chemicals.** Keep your hands away from your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- **In case of a chemical splash on your skin**, immediately and thoroughly wash the skin with soap and water.
- **In case of a chemical splash in your eyes**, remove contact lenses if necessary, force eyes open, and continuously flush with water for 15 minutes.
- **Chemical spills** should be wiped up with a paper towel. If glass is broken, take care of it properly. After the spill has been removed, clean the surface again with a wet paper towel and then with a disinfectant spray.
- **Never handle hot objects without using protective gloves, clamps, or tongs.** The temperature of an object is not always reflected in its appearance.
- **When working around an open flame**, long hair should be tied back and loose sleeves should be rolled up. The work area should be neat. Flammable materials and liquids should be moved well away from the flame. Never heat anything unless you have been instructed to do so.
- **Follow the proper operating instructions for electrical equipment** and keep the workstation clean and dry.
- **When using a sharp object**, never cut toward yourself. Always cut away from your body. Make sure nobody is standing so close that he or she could be in danger of being cut.
- **Dispose of laboratory chemicals and materials properly.** \* Soaking possible biohazard materials in a disinfectant bleach solution for approximately 10 minutes before disposal should properly disinfect them.

\* No special disposal methods are necessary for any of the chemicals with which you will be working in this Suite. All may be placed in the garbage or washed down the drain.