

Teacher Checklist for Science Classrooms

(includes classroom animals)

Complete this checklist and periodically review it to ensure your science classroom meets important Washington State health and safety rules and guidelines (WAC 246-366).

Emergency Eye Washes and Showers

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

Science Classroom Safety

- Personal protective equipment provided and worn
- Written and documented lab safety orientation given to all students
- ☐ Adequate lighting above benches (at least 50 foot-candles)
- Emergency and master shut-off switches operable (have been tested) and labeled
- Warm water, soap and paper towels at hand washing sinks
- Electrical outlets within 6 feet of sinks GFCI protected

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

- Sources of odors eliminated
- Vents open and unblocked
- ☐ Maintenance notified of air quality concerns/questions
- Room kept uncluttered
- Plants not overwatered (no moldy soil or stagnant water under planters)
- ☐ School/district policy for classroom cleaners/chemicals reviewed



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Chemicals		Classroom Animals	
	Chemicals organized using a recognized system (e.g., Flinn, Baker, etc.)		School/district policy on classroom animals and hand washing reviewed
	Incompatible chemicals separated		Potential allergies, injuries, illnesses from animals/bedding
	Acids stored in an acid cabinet; non-compatible acids stored alone		carefully considered
	(e.g., nitric, acetic)		Written notification given to parents when animals kept in
	Flammables stored in a flammable cabinet		classroom
	Lab only uses chemicals designated by OSPI/DOH as suitable for		Animals handled only under adult supervision
	use in K-12 schools (chemicals designated in K-12 Guide Appendix		Bite-resistant gloves worn when handling animals
	D Table 1 as unsuitable have been removed)*		Cages cleaned daily away from snack areas
	Chemicals listed in K-12 Guide Appendix D Table 2 limited to		"Wash Hands" sign posted on/near animal cages/containers;
	small/micro quantities in advanced level high school science only*		hand washing facilities available
	MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet) available for each chemical		
	All containers labeled with contents	Во	okcases, Shelving, Television Carts
	Chemical inventory updated (copy kept in the main office)		Tall or unstable bookcases/shelving units secured to wall to
	Chemical hygiene plan updated and readily available to staff and		prevent tipping
	students		Stacked bookcases/shelving units secured to lower part; if
	Chemical spill cleanup plan and cleanup kit updated and readily		unstable entire unit secured to wall
	available		Televisions secured to audiovisual cart
			Maintenance notified of unstable bookcases/shelving
	OH/OSPI K-12 Health and Safety Guide, Appendix D:		
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Important Science Classroom Health and Safety Links:

Oct. 2012

DOH/OSPI Guide for K-12 Schools in Washington • 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

SRHD School Safety Program Resources page • www.srhd.org/services/school-resources.asp