



Preparing for Chemistry Lab

Performing experiments in the chemistry laboratory provides you with the opportunity to learn important lab techniques and observe interesting chemical reactions. Taking the time to prepare for your lab activity will help ensure that you understand the procedures you are to follow and that your experiment runs smoothly and safely. You can prepare for each lab activity by reviewing the lab preparation tips below.

- Read the experiment thoroughly, and familiarize yourself with what you will do at each step in the procedure. If there is any part of the experiment that you do not understand, ask your teacher before you start the experiment.
- Do any assigned pre-lab exercises. These will generally cover any calculations or important observations that you will make.
- Prepare data tables ahead of time. If you have the data table ready before you begin, you will be able to record your observations as they happen, in the appropriate spaces.
- Review the materials list for the experiment. Make sure that you have all the items you need to perform the experiment. If you are missing any items or if any items are broken or unusable, let your teacher know before you begin the lab.
- Review all safety guidelines and safety icons at the beginning of each experiment. Read “Safety in the Chemistry Laboratory” in the front of your book for a complete explanation of the safety rules that you should follow in the lab.
- Know where the emergency eyewash station, safety shower, and fire extinguisher are located, and be sure you know how to use them. If you cannot locate the lab safety equipment or you do not know how to use any equipment, ask your teacher for help.
- Know the proper disposal procedures for the experiment. Your teacher will tell you what to do with any substances that need to be disposed of.