

# Soldering Safety

1. Use appropriate PPE (personal protection equipment) at all times when soldering or desoldering. PPE includes eye protection, (use at all times), skin protection, and heat protection, as required under safe operating procedures.
2. Do not operate the soldering iron without the instructor's permission.
3. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for changing tool accessories.
4. Ensure adequate ventilation. Solder may contain lead. DO NOT breathe fumes from soldering or desoldering operations. Wash hands afterwards.
5. Clamp work securely while performing soldering or desoldering. Use a vice or other approved clamping systems to keep your hands free to work.
6. Use heat sinks to protect circuit components. Do not apply excessive heat or apply heat for excessive lengths of time.
7. Beware of hot soldering irons and components. Make sure others are aware of hot tools. Switch off and/or unplug soldering tools when not in use. Allow to cool before storing.
8. Keep the area clean around the workplace at all times.
9. When working with used circuit boards, make sure the desolder or solder area is clean and free of dust or grease before applying heat.
10. Be aware of the location of your soldering iron or pencil while it is hot, or cooling. Make sure you place the hot iron in an appropriate holder to prevent heat or fire damage.
11. Never directly hand a soldering iron to someone else, place it in the holder and they can take it from there.
12. When soldering wire connections, make sure the wires are tightly connected. Use appropriate covering like heat shrink tubing or twist-on connectors to protect the splice. Do not use wires with melted insulation or exposed conductors.

**AT ALL TIMES – IF IN DOUBT, STOP! ASK YOUR INSTRUCTOR**