

# Safety Symbols

These symbols appear in laboratory activities. They warn of possible dangers in the laboratory and remind you to work carefully.



**Safety Goggles** Wear safety goggles to protect your eyes in any activity involving chemicals, flames or heating, or glassware.



**Lab Apron** Wear a laboratory apron to protect your skin and clothing from damage.



**Breakage** Handle breakable materials, such as glassware, with care. Do not touch broken glassware.



**Heat-Resistant Gloves** Use an oven mitt or other hand protection when handling hot materials such as hot plates or hot glassware.



**Plastic Gloves** Wear disposable plastic gloves when working with harmful chemicals and organisms. Keep your hands away from your face, and dispose of the gloves according to your teacher's instructions.



**Heating** Use a clamp or tongs to pick up hot glassware. Do not touch hot objects with your bare hands.



**Flames** Before you work with flames, tie back loose hair and clothing. Follow instructions from your teacher about lighting and extinguishing flames.



**No Flames** When using flammable materials, make sure there are no flames, sparks, or other exposed heat sources present.



**Corrosive Chemical** Avoid getting acid or other corrosive chemicals on your skin or clothing or in your eyes. Do not inhale the vapors. Wash your hands after the activity.



**Poison** Do not let any poisonous chemical come into contact with your skin, and do not inhale its vapors. Wash your hands when you are finished with the activity.



**Fumes** Work in a ventilated area when harmful vapors may be involved. Avoid inhaling vapors directly. Only test an odor when directed to do so by your teacher, and use a wafting motion to direct the vapor toward your nose.



**Sharp Object** Scissors, scalpels, knives, needles, pins, and tacks can cut your skin. Always direct a sharp edge or point away from yourself and others.



**Animal Safety** Treat live or preserved animals or animal parts with care to avoid harming the animals or yourself. Wash your hands when you are finished with the activity.



**Plant Safety** Handle plants only as directed by your teacher. If you are allergic to certain plants, tell your teacher; do not do an activity involving those plants. Avoid touching harmful plants such as poison ivy. Wash your hands when you are finished with the activity.



**Electric Shock** To avoid electric shock, never use electrical equipment around water, or when the equipment is wet or your hands are wet. Be sure cords are untangled and cannot trip anyone. Unplug equipment not in use.



**Physical Safety** When an experiment involves physical activity, avoid injuring yourself or others. Alert your teacher if there is any reason you should not participate.



**Disposal** Dispose of chemicals and other laboratory materials safely. Follow the instructions from your teacher.



**Hand Washing** Wash your hands thoroughly when finished with the activity. Use soap and warm water. Rinse well.



**General Safety Awareness** When this symbol appears, follow the instructions provided. When you are asked to develop your own procedure in a lab, have your teacher approve your plan before you go further.