

PROPER LAB APPAREL

1. Goggles

It is recommended that all school laboratories provide eyewear meeting the ANSI Z87.1 or Z87+ standard. The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) provides basic performance requirements for eye and face protection. For science educators, OSHA addresses eye protection in their Personal Protective Equipment Standards (29 CFR 1910.132).

A few simple rules to remember:

- When using hazardous liquids (e.g., solutions of acids, bases, etc.), indirectly vented chemical splash goggles are required.
- When using solids (e.g., projectiles, meter sticks, glassware, etc), either safety glasses or goggles can be used.
- All eyewear should be purchased and used in accordance with the ANSI Z87.1-2003 standard. High impact lenses are recommended.

In most schools students are sharing goggles and OSHA requires they be sanitized after each use. The most common method is to use an Ultraviolet (U-V) goggle sanitizer cabinet which take about 15 minutes to sanitize goggles or safety glasses. Alternatives to U-V sanitizers include disinfectants, alcohol or antibacterial dish detergent.

Note: Safety shields may be needed in addition to chemical splash goggles in certain situations where the balance of the face is at risk. They will provide superior protection against chemical splash injury. Goggles are still required under shields.

2. Gloves

Check Material Safety Data Sheets for the appropriate type of glove for maximum protection.

Types of gloves appropriate for secondary schools:

- a. Latex/vinyl (microorganisms and biological material – latex is a known allergen for some people)
- b. Butyl rubber (most acids)
- c. Nitrile (most chemicals)
- d. Polyvinyl alcohol (organic compounds)
- e. Nitrile rubber (insulates against electricity)
- f. Neoprene (solvents)

3. Clothing / Shoes

Long pants and long-sleeved shirts should be worn to avoid exposure to hazardous materials in the laboratory. Avoid wearing loose flowing sleeves or blouses, scarves, skirts or shorts. Restrain loose hair and do not wear jewelry such as rings, bracelets and wristwatches. Closed toe shoes are also required to prevent chemical spills or falling objects from injuring your feet.

4. Aprons

Wear a plastic apron over your clothing for extra protection from corrosive or hot liquids.