

18 May 2023

Safety Notes for the Undergraduate Teaching Laboratories

A full set of safety precautions are given on the department web site and apply to all circumstances governed by the Chemistry department. Please be sure to review these periodically, as they are updated as necessary.

The link is <https://www.uvic.ca/science/chemistry/undergraduate/safety/index.php>.

In particular, we want to emphasize your role in keeping yourself safe. Whenever practical work of any nature is being carried out in a laboratory, full personal protection equipment must be worn by everyone in the room. Use the fumehoods to carry out as many of the manipulations of chemicals as possible.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Eyes must be protected by more than just prescription glasses, as they do not offer sufficient coverage at the top or sides. Safety glasses are the best option, and these can be purchased on campus at the Bookstore. Larger sizes designed to be worn over the top of prescription glasses are available. These must fit properly over the glasses.

A lab coat must be worn. The advantage of wearing one is that it can be removed quickly in the event of a spill, taking a large amount of the spillage away from the body. By the same token, remember to wash your lab coat frequently!

Below the hem of the lab coat, all skin should be covered to offer some protection in the case of a spill. Consequently, shorts are not allowed. Shoes must fully cover the foot and not be slip on/off. Sandals, even with thick socks, are not sufficient.

Disposable nitrile gloves will be available in a variety of sizes. Be aware that they are not a barrier to every chemical you will handle. Frequent handwashing is recommended and is required before you leave the lab.

Everyone is expected to come suitably prepared for class, so please read the information in the manual provided for each Experimental (E) or Tutorial (T) class.