

Cooley Lab Safety Guidelines

- 1. Keep the lab clean and organized.** A chaotic work environment makes it easier to contaminate a sample, lose track of what you are doing, or knock something over.
- 2. Wear close toed shoes in the lab.** Open-toed shoes are allowed only for computer and/or greenhouse work.
- 3. Wear additional protective clothing as needed.** If you are doing any kind of bench work, wear lab gloves. If you are handling liquid nitrogen, wear the big blue gloves (located under the sink). If you are working with chemicals in the hood, wear a purple apron (located next to the door).
- 4. Keep ethidium bromide in the gel area.** If you get ethidium bromide on your gloves, or use your gloves to handle a gel, then dispose of those gloves in the ethidium bromide waste container (next to the microwave). Dispose of gels in the aluminum tub in the dark room.
- 5. Keep food and drinks out of the lab area.** These can go (a) on the bookshelf next to the door, or (b) in the refrigerator in the break room (right around the corner from the lab).
- 6. Treat your gloves as though they had chemicals on them at all times.** Do not touch your skin with your gloves. Do not touch computers, doorknobs, or any other 'public' surface with your gloves - take one glove off if you need to open a door while carrying a chemical. This helps make sure that unsuspecting, ungloved people do not get chemicals on their hands.
- 7. Let me or a staff member know if any injury or accident occurs.** If it is an emergency, call 911 first.

Summer Hours

Each student should complete 350 hours of lab and/or greenhouse work over the course of the summer. You should not work more than 35 hours per week. For safety reasons, I encourage you to keep your hours within the 8 am - 5 pm time frame. If you need to be at work before 8, after 5, or on the weekends, make sure that someone else knows where you are, and refrain from using any "fume hood" (ie potentially dangerous) chemicals.

Time spent at home reading scientific literature or working on your thesis does not count towards your 350 hours. However, if you are in the lab and are waiting for an experiment to run, you are welcome to use that time for thesis-related reading and writing.