University of Pittsburgh
Department of Public Safety
and Emergency Management

Top Ten Tips

Using Chemicals Safely

- 1. Read the safety data sheets for all chemicals used.
- 2. Use engineering controls, such as working inside of a chemical fume hood.
- 3. Limit the amount of chemicals to only what is needed.
- 4. Assess if chemicals can be substituted for less hazardous or less toxic alternatives.
- 5. Always wear a lab coat.
- 6. Wear safety glasses with side shields (or safety goggles) when near chemicals.
- 7. Select the proper type of gloves to protect your skin.
- 8. Read the safe operating procedure before using chemicals.
- 9. Understand compatibility of the chemicals before mixing.
- 10. Prepare a spill kit, and know the campus emergency number (412-624-2121) and nearest eye wash/shower.