

CHEMICAL PURCHASING GUIDELINES

6 Questions to Ask Before Purchasing a Chemical

1. What is the relative chemical hazard?

Understand the labels associated with your chemical. Does it pose any physical or health hazards? Can you work with it safely?

Check the Safety Data Sheet to determine a chemical's associated hazards.

4. Is the chemical commonly used in your curriculum or lab?

If your lesson plans only include this chemical once all year, try to substitute something else for it.

2. What is the educational value of the experiment?

A lesson plan or experiment with high educational value typically focuses on improving critical thinking skills or deductive and inductive reasoning. Does the particular experiment requiring this certain chemical hold high value?

5. Have you used this substance before?

If not, research and become familiar with it! What is the necessary PPE for this chemical? How is it used and handled safely?

3. Is your lab equipped for the safe use of the chemical?

Be sure you are stocked with necessary equipment such as:

- PPE
- Safety shower
- Eye wash station
- Fire extinguisher
- Fume hood
- Proper ventilation

6. How will you dispose of this chemical?

Know how and where to properly dispose of your chemicals. Keep in mind that the cost of disposal of a hazardous chemical is generally 10x the original purchase price.