

Chemical Kit Safety

It is very important when working with chemicals to know the proper handling techniques and possible hazards. Even though the chemicals in the kits are used in very small amounts and are, for the most part, considered non-hazardous, they still can be potentially harmful to you and/or the environment. Following the guidelines below will ensure your safety and well-being.

- Know your equipment, sampling instructions and procedures before going out into the field. Enclosed in the test kit are Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for each of the chemicals used in the field analysis. These sheets are provided by the chemical company and contain very specific information on the chemical and the proper first aid if someone ingests the chemical, or if it comes in contact with someone's eyes or skin.
- Read the MSDS sheet for each chemical that you will be handling to familiarize yourself with the potential hazards. Know where your MSDS sheets are located when monitoring in the field.
- If MSDS sheets are not available, enclose contact information for the company.
- Keep all equipment and chemicals away from small children.
- Avoid contact between chemical reagents and skin, eye, nose, and mouth.
- Wash hands directly after using the chemical tests and before eating.
- Never use your fingers to stopper a sample bottle (e.g. when you are shaking a solution).
- Wear goggles and rubber gloves when handling acids and volatile chemicals.
- Know chemical cleanup and disposal procedures. Wipe up all spills when they occur.
- Close all containers tightly after use. Do not switch caps.
- Do not expose chemicals or equipment to temperature extremes or long-term direct sunshine and store in a climate-controlled environment.