

Flammable— any substance which is easily set on fire; combustible; inflammable

Corrosive— a chemical which can break down other substances when exposed; having the quality of corroding or eating away; erosive

Oxidizer— a chemical which reacts with oxygen to produce rusting

Acid— a compound usually having a sour taste and capable of neutralizing alkalis and reddening blue litmus paper; hydrogen donor and has a pH below 7

Alkali— any of the various bases, hydroxides of the alkali metals or of ammonium, that neutralize acids to form salts; turns red litmus paper blue

Material Safety and Data Sheets (MSDS sheets)— provide health, safety, spill, and response information to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) on identified harmful substances

Irritant— any chemical which tends to cause irritation of the skin when exposed

Toxic— the reaction from exposure to or caused by a toxin or poison

Chemical burns— a burn that occurs when living tissue is exposed to a corrosive substance such as strong acid or base

Heat burns— a burn that occurs when living tissue is exposed to high temperatures

Wafting— a safe method of detecting odor by moving air with your hand to your nose

Fire Blanket— a blanket made of fire-proof material; safety equipment

Fume hood or vented hood— a large piece of scientific equipment common to chemistry laboratories designed to limit a person's exposure to hazardous and/or unpleasant fumes

Receptacle for broken glass— usually a box designed to keep broken glass until disposed of properly

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) label— utilizes a diamond diagram, divided into four color coded sections: typically color-coded, with blue indicating level of health hazard, red indicating flammability, yellow (chemical) reactivity, and white containing special codes for unique hazards

Noxious fumes— fumes or smoke which is harmful to living things; injurious to health

Combustible— capable of igniting and burning

Radioactivity— the processes by which unstable atomic nuclei achieve stability

Scientific question— a question that can be answered using empirical evidence

Mass— the amount of matter an object contains

Volume— the amount of space an object takes up

Triple beam balance— instrument used to measure the mass of an object

Accuracy— the closeness of a measurement to the true value of what is being measured

Precision— describes the closeness, or reproducibility, of a set of measurements taken under the same conditions

Scale— instrument used to measure the weight of an object

Ruler— instrument used to measure small distances or length

Graduated cylinder— instrument used to measure volume of a liquid

Thermometer— instrument used to measure temperature

Dependent variable— variable that is affected by the independent variable and measured in an experiment

Stopwatch— instrument used to measure a time interval

Control— experimental group established during an experiment that does not undergo any form of experimental procedure. This group is used as a basis for comparing experimental observations and normalizing empirical data

Hypothesis— a proposed explanation of observations

Quantitative measurement— a measurement that gives definite, usually numeric results

Qualitative measurement (observation)— a measurement that gives descriptive, nonnumeric results

Scientific question— a question that can be answered using empirical evidence