

Note to the Teacher: Soldering Safety

Safety education must be an integral part of technology instruction. In order to prevent injury to students and teachers, good safety habits, practices and attitudes can best be acquired through a carefully planned and implemented safety education program.

This and other safety guidelines should not be construed to be an answer to all safety problems. They should be recognized as a vehicle for improving safety instruction and for building a strong safety program designed to instill positive attitudes toward safety—an important aspect of the education of every child.

Excerpted from: Pennsylvania Department of Education; Industrial Arts Association of Pennsylvania; Pennsylvania Industrial Arts Safety Guide

SAFETY RULES FOR SOLDERING:

1. Wear adequate eye protection.
2. Never apply resin, paint or other finishing material near areas used for soldering, or other hot work.
3. Further safety precautions for soldering can be found in textbooks and technical manuals. All assembly processes should be cautiously presented to students and each unique hazard should be visibly identified. Monitoring students carefully will ensure that they will wear the appropriate clothing and eye protection while performing dangerous operations.
4. Work in a well-ventilated area
5. Do not inhale fumes from the soldering processes.
6. Use care in removing excess molten solder from the copper; the instructor should be consulted for the proper procedure to use.
7. Clean up spilled flux immediately.
8. Wash hands after soldering. Flux can cause burns to the skin or damage clothing.
9. In case of acid burns, flush immediately with water.
10. Be aware of the rapid rate of heat transfer throughout thin metal.
11. Do not use electric guns or irons while standing or working in wet areas.
12. Care should be taken not to cut or burn the electrical cords on electric soldering guns or irons.
13. Clean up the area when finished.
14. Do not leave hot metals where others can contact them.