Quinte Regional Science and Technology Fair
Science Project Display Safety Guidelines
Version: 2027
Applies to: All student exhibitors, teachers, mentors, volunteers, judges, and visitors.

Purpose

The Quinte Regional Science and Technology Fair (QRSTF) is committed to providing a safe environment for all participants. These guidelines are intended to ensure that every project display is safe, stable, and suitable for exhibition in a public venue.
Failure to comply with these safety requirements may result in a project being modified, removed from display, or disqualified until safety concerns have been corrected.

General Safety Requirements

Every project must:

- Be safe for students, judges, volunteers, and the public.
- Be constructed using sturdy materials.
- Be stable and free-standing.
- Remain entirely within the assigned display area.
- Not create hazards in aisles or emergency exits.
- Be supervised by the exhibitor whenever demonstrations are conducted.
- Comply with all school board, municipal, provincial, and federal safety regulations.

Display Dimensions

Projects should fit comfortably within the assigned display space.
Display boards should:

- Stand securely without additional support.
- Not exceed the maximum dimensions specified in the exhibitor handbook.
- Not obstruct neighbouring displays.

Large equipment may require prior approval from the Fair Committee.

Electrical Safety (only given by committee review and consent)

All electrical devices must:

- Be in good working condition.
- Use commercially manufactured power supplies whenever possible.
- Have insulated wiring.
- Have no exposed electrical conductors.
- Be powered safely.

Extension cords must:

- Be CSA or UL approved.

- Not create tripping hazards.
- Be secured if required.

Electrical projects may be inspected before judging begins.
The Fair Committee reserves the right to disconnect any unsafe equipment.

Batteries

Permitted:

- AA, AAA, C, D batteries
- Rechargeable battery packs
- Sealed lead-acid batteries
- Commercial lithium-ion batteries contained within finished products

Not permitted:

- Damaged batteries
- Swollen lithium batteries
- Homemade battery packs
- Exposed battery terminals

Batteries should never be charging while the exhibit is unattended.

Chemicals

No hazardous chemicals may be displayed.
Examples include:

- Strong acids
- Strong bases
- Flammable solvents
- Toxic chemicals
- Explosives
- Oxidizers
- Radioactive materials

Small sealed samples of common household materials may be permitted if approved.
Whenever possible, use photographs instead of actual chemicals.

Biological Materials

The following are NOT permitted:

- Human blood
- Human tissue
- Human bodily fluids
- Animal tissue that has not been professionally preserved
- Live microorganisms
- Mold cultures

- Petri dishes containing bacterial growth must be sealed
- Medical waste

Permitted:

- Commercially prepared microscope slides
- Preserved specimens purchased from educational suppliers
- Plant material
- Seeds
- Fruits and vegetables

Any biological material must be clean, odor-free, and safely contained.

Animals

Live animals are not permitted as part of the project display unless specifically authorized by the Fair Committee.
Photographs and videos should be used instead.

Plants

Plants are welcome provided they:

- Are free of insects.
- Are not poisonous.
- Do not produce excessive pollen or odors.
- Do not create water hazards.

Lasers

Only low-power demonstration lasers may be permitted.
Laser beams must never:

- Be directed toward people.
- Leave the project display.
- Be reflected by mirrors.
- Be visible outside the exhibit.

High-powered lasers are prohibited.

Fire Safety

Projects must not include:

- Open flames
- Candles
- Matches
- Lighters
- Fireworks
- Pyrotechnics

- Smoke generators
- Combustion demonstrations

Demonstrations involving heat should be shown using video whenever possible.

Pressure Systems

Compressed gases are generally prohibited.

This includes:

- Compressed air tanks
- CO_2 cylinders
- Propane
- Butane
- Aerosol demonstrations

Small commercially sealed components may be acceptable with prior approval.

Moving Parts

Mechanical devices must:

- Have guards where appropriate.
- Prevent accidental contact.
- Operate safely.
- Not eject objects.

Judges must be able to observe demonstrations without risk.

Sharp Objects

Knives, blades, needles, scalpels, and other sharp tools:

- Must not be accessible to the public.
- Should be removed after project construction whenever possible.
- Must be securely covered if displayed.

Glass

Glass containers should be avoided.

If glass is necessary:

- It must be thick and unbroken.
- Be securely supported.
- Not contain hazardous materials.

Plastic containers are strongly preferred.

Liquids

Liquid displays should:

- Be sealed.

- Be leak-proof.
- Be clearly labelled.

Large quantities of liquids are discouraged.

Food Samples

Food intended for consumption is generally not permitted unless approved by the Fair Committee.

Packaged commercial food products used only for display are acceptable.

Demonstrations

Demonstrations should:

- Be supervised at all times.
- Not create excessive noise.
- Not create hazards.
- Be stopped immediately if requested by officials.

Video demonstrations are encouraged for potentially hazardous experiments.

Trip Hazards

Projects must not include:

- Loose wires across aisles
- Unsecured extension cords
- Equipment extending into walkways
- Objects placed on the floor outside the assigned display space

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Sound Levels

Audio demonstrations should be kept at a reasonable volume.

Headphones are encouraged for multimedia displays.

Computer Equipment

Computers and tablets may be used for presentations.

Exhibitors should:

- Bring chargers if electrical power is available.
- Ensure devices are secure.
- Disable inappropriate notifications.

Internet access should not be required for judging whenever possible.

Security

Valuable items should not be left unattended.

The Quinte Regional Science and Technology Fair cannot guarantee protection against loss or damage.

Emergency Procedures

Exhibitors should:

- Know the location of emergency exits.
- Follow directions from volunteers and emergency personnel.
- Report spills or hazards immediately.
- Keep aisles clear at all times.

Display Inspection

All projects may undergo a safety inspection before judging.

Inspectors may require:

- Removal of prohibited materials.
- Modification of unsafe displays.
- Replacement of hazardous components with photographs or videos.

Projects that cannot be made safe may not be displayed.

Prohibited Items

The following are prohibited unless specifically authorized:

- Open flames
- Fireworks
- Explosives
- Ammunition
- Firearms
- Weapons
- Hazardous chemicals
- Radioactive materials
- Dry ice
- Liquid nitrogen
- Human blood
- Human tissue
- Live microorganisms
- Mold cultures
- Illegal substances
- Tobacco products
- Vaping devices
- Alcohol
- Strong odors

- Excessive noise-producing devices
- High-powered lasers
- Compressed gas cylinders
- Flammable liquids
- Smoke-producing devices

Student Safety Responsibilities

Each exhibitor is responsible for ensuring that:

- Their project complies with all safety rules.
- Their display remains safe throughout the event.
- Any concerns identified by safety inspectors are corrected promptly.
- They follow instructions provided by Fair officials.

Fair Committee Authority

The Quinte Regional Science and Technology Fair Safety Committee has the authority to:

- Inspect any exhibit.
- Request modifications.
- Remove hazardous items.
- Disconnect electrical equipment.
- Restrict demonstrations.
- Remove projects that present unacceptable safety risks.

Committee decisions regarding safety are final.

Questions

Questions regarding project safety should be directed to the Quinte Regional Science and Technology Fair Committee prior to the event to allow sufficient time for review and approval.

Thank you for helping make the Quinte Regional Science and Technology Fair a safe, educational, and enjoyable experience for everyone.