

VDSF SAFETY CHECKLIST

Adapted from Greater Vancouver Regional Science Fair



VDSF
Vancouver District Science Fair

The following items are **NOT** permitted at VDSF. A Safety Officer will inspect your display and ask you to remove any equipment/materials considered hazardous.

Fire Hazards

- Flames, candle, torch, or any other heating device (e.g. hot plate)
- Excessive packaging material under the table

Electrical Hazards

- Inappropriately grounded plugs or electrical sockets
Note: 2-pronged plugs are permitted if CSA-approved and plug & casing are made of plastic
- Modifications to CSA-approved electrical equipment
- Wet cell batteries (such as lead acid) or dry cell batteries (such as alkaline, NiMH, or lithium ion)
Note: Electronic equipment **created** by participants are permitted if they have the following:
 - lowest possible voltage and electric current
 - a non-combustible enclosure
 - an insulating grommet at the point where the electrical service enters the enclosure
 - all exposed terminals are covered
 - pilot light to indicate when the power is on
 - no frayed wires or cords

Biohazards

- Biological toxins
- Cell or tissue samples (blood and blood products only permitted if displayed on sealed microscope slides)
- Cultures (e.g. Petri dishes containing media, Ziplocs with spores, etc.)
- Soil containing organic material
- Plants or plant tissue

Animals and Animal Parts

- Live animals or micro-organisms
- Items naturally shed by an animal or parts prepared and preserved (e.g. quills, shed snake skin, feathers, tanned pelts/hides, antlers, hair samples, skeletons or skeletal parts)

Images of Humans

- Sensational or offensive images of humans on display

Firearms, Hazardous Materials, and Equipment

- Firearms, ammunition, dangerous goods, or explosives
- Images of humans or animals injured by firearms or explosives
- Functional X-ray and radiation-producing equipment

TIP: Photos and/or videos are a good substitute for items that cannot be displayed safely.

Structural and Mechanical Safety

- Any structurally unsound backboard or display
- Sharp edges such as the corners of prisms, mirrors, glass, or metal plates that are not in a case
- Dangerous moving parts such as belts, gears, pulleys, and blades that are not in a guard
- Motors that do not contain safety shut-offs
- Pressurized vessels or compressed gas cylinders
- Power aircraft, tethered or free (e.g. drones)

- Note:** Moving exhibits (such as robots) that are using more than their allocated space must
 - be slow moving and carefully controlled
 - not be tripping hazards

Chemical Safety

- Flammable, toxic, or dangerous chemicals (includes substances in sealed containers)
- Prescription drugs or over-the-counter medications
- Display samples of liquid exceeding 1 liter
- Radioactive sources and materials (e.g. smoke detector sources)
- Display samples of any chemicals other than table salt or water are strongly discouraged.
 - Water, table salt, and molasses can be used to simulate other materials (label samples as "Simulated X")
 - Food colouring and water may be used to simulate chemicals necessary.