



Portables - health and safety guidelines

PRIOR TO THE USE OF THESE EXHIBITS, RISK ASSESSMENTS MUST BE CARRIED OUT FOR THE SPECIFIC LOCATION AND AUDIENCE. ASSESSMENTS SHOULD BE COMPLETED BY COMPETENT PERSONS WHO ARE TRAINED IN RISK ASSESSMENT. THIS IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS AND THE STANDARDS THEY COMPLY TO.

Below is a series of general safety guidelines provided as information when using the exhibits. Read them carefully before completing your risk assessments.

GENERAL SAFETY

Electrical

'Hot or Cold', 'Future fuel', 'Reflect It', 'Air stream', 'Seeing sound', 'Survival', 'Look at light', 'Up close', 'Size matters', and 'Seeing stress' are powered by mains electricity. Only suitably qualified personnel should service these two exhibits. They should be disconnected from the mains before any work is carried out.

Cable trip hazard

The mains cable for these two exhibits comes out of a side panel. Ensure that the cable does not cause a trip hazard by placing away from the user and/or securing with tape if necessary.

General

These exhibits are designed for use as traveling, interactive science exhibits in a school environment. They must be supervised at all times by at least one teacher or supervisory member of staff per class.

These exhibits are not suitable for outdoor use.

Do not climb on top of the exhibit.

Parts of 'Hot or Cold' are wooden and must be regularly checked for splinters and sanded if necessary.

Lasers

The 'Reflect It' exhibit has a class III laser inside. To avoid damage to the eye, DO NOT look directly into the laser beam or view directly with optical instruments.

Only persons with suitable training and qualifications should open the exhibit cabinet. Some exhibit cabinets will contain mains powered equipment and there is a danger of electric shock.

The exhibit should only be tested with the cabinet open by suitably trained and qualified staff, when the exhibits are not in use.

Loose components

The loose components for the 'Air stream', Moving Magnets', 'Under Pressure', 'Look at light', 'Earthquake', 'Seeing stress', 'Orbits', 'Gear it up', 'Harmonic art', and 'Hot or cold' exhibits have been checked and passed using a standard Choke Tester. They should be regularly inspected to make sure that they are not worn or broken and that they still pass. Choke Testers can be obtained from the shops of the 'Early Learning Centre'.

All exhibits should be positioned centrally on the table surface, prior to and during use, to ensure they are stable and will not fall off which could cause injury.

Environment

It is important that all exhibits are placed on a flat level surface in a supervised area. All of the exhibits are inherently stable with the exception of 'Pump It Up' (Energy suite) which will require additional

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consideration. The 'Pump it Up' exhibit comes in three parts. The top reservoir part should be carefully placed so that it will not fall off a desk.

These exhibits are not suitable for use within 3 metres of open water or within 2 metres of heat sources. They should be positioned at least 3 metres away from any balconies or upper windows as falling components could cause injury.

Electricity

The electrical supply is 220v ac single phase, fused with a 5A Delay fuse. It should be supplied to the exhibit via a 30mA, 30ms dual pole Residual Current Circuit Device.

The exhibits that use electricity are self-contained units and require no additional services.

Noise

The 'Seeing Sound' exhibit (Energy suite) generates sound and requires a quieter area for it to work effectively. You are advised to move this exhibit to the side of the room to minimize disruption.

Temperature

These exhibits are not designed to cope with extremes of temperature (below 10° and above 30°C). They are therefore unsuitable for outside use.

Lighting

'Reflect It' and 'Look at light' would benefit from being placed in a lower-light area away from direct sunlight. Although not essential, this will allow the user to see the light more clearly.

GENERAL HANDLING

Storage

The exhibits should be stored in clean and dry conditions, away from bright light, at a temperature between 5 and 30oC. Some components may degrade and should be removed and stored separately. The exhibits should be stored vertically and protected from accidental damage whilst in store.

Nothing should be stacked on top of these exhibits once they have been stacked as a unit.

Transport

The set of exhibits has been designed to travel in a car or small van. The exhibit will stack into a single unit. Loose or moving components should be removed from the exhibits and packed separately in the resource box. Each component part will have its own compartment and should be returned to it prior to transportation.

The exhibits should remain the right way up at all times and should be secured and padded whilst in transit. Further protection may be required if shaking or vibration is likely.

Cleaning

Recommended cleaning materials

- Cotton Dusters
- A spray-on, clear, non-abrasive, non-ammoniated, water-based glass cleaner such as Johnson's "Mr. Muscle Window cleaner".

Never use non-woven cloths such as Johnson's J-cloths; they will eventually scratch the paint and plastic surfaces.

Never use solvent cleaners; only use the cleaners recommended here. Solvents can cloud, or even crack, plastics causing permanent damage.

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