



WORKING WELL WITH YOUR SCIENCE TECHNICIAN



A QUICK CHECKLIST FOR SCIENCE TEACHERS

1 PLAN AHEAD



- ✓ Share year plans, schemes and assessment schedules.
- ✓ Book practicals before the department cut-off date.
- ✓ Avoid last-minute requests whenever possible.

2 PROVIDE THE DETAILS

Don't just request:

"HCl, Mg, beakers"

Instead include:



- ✓ Number of classes/students
- ✓ Equipment quantities
- ✓ Chemical concentrations and volumes
- ✓ Practical instructions or worksheets
- ✓ YouTube/video links if relevant

3 KEEP COMMUNICATING



- ✓ Meet regularly (even 15 minutes helps).
- ✓ Let your technician know about changes to topics or assessments.
- ✓ Share upcoming practical ideas early.

4 INCLUDE YOUR TECHNICIAN



Invite them to:

- ✓ Practical planning meetings
- ✓ Assessment discussions
- ✓ Curriculum changes

Their experience can save time, money and headaches.

5 PUT SAFETY FIRST

- ✓ Listen to safety advice.
- ✓ Complete risk assessments.
- ✓ Wear required PPE.
- ✓ Model safe laboratory behaviour.



6 ORDER EARLY



The more notice you give:

- ✓ the better prepared your technician can be
- ✓ the more likely practicals can be trialled first
- ✓ the smoother your lesson will run

7 GIVE FEEDBACK



If a practical doesn't work:

- ✓ Tell your technician.
- ✓ Report broken or faulty equipment.
- ✓ Help improve future practicals.

8 LOOK AFTER EQUIPMENT

BEFORE CLASS:

- ✓ Count equipment out.



AFTER CLASS:

- ✓ Count everything back.
- ✓ Report anything broken or missing.

9 RESPECT THEIR TIME



Remember technicians also need uninterrupted time for:

- ✓ Ordering
- ✓ Maintenance
- ✓ Cleaning
- ✓ Stocktakes
- ✓ Preparation
- ✓ Administration



BE ORGANISED



BE SPECIFIC



BE SAFE



BE FLEXIBLE



BE CONSIDERATE



BE APPRECIATIVE



A well-supported science technician helps create **successful practical science for every student.**



Many thanks to STANZ Cluster Coordinator for Central Auckland, Arwen Heyworth, *Onehunga High School*, for these useful tips.



NZASE
New Zealand Association of Science Educators