



A4 Health and Safety Audit



Completing a Health and Safety Audit (T3) or Risk Assessment (A5/T4) is a constructive and necessary process in school gardening. First, you need to know what a hazard is (see below); next invite pupils and the community to be involved. Be sure to repeat regularly, eg monthly, and after garden developments.

A hazard is anything that could cause someone harm, including

- Object or event – eg heavy weights, machines, electricity, fire, noise, tools and chemicals. They can become a greater risk if they are damaged, such as a ladder in poor repair.
- Living organism – eg bacteria, viruses, people, and insects.
- Way of working – eg a rake left on the ground for someone to step on (the rake could flip up and hit the person in the face).

Activity

- 1 Discuss what potential hazards there might be in the garden; make a list of your ideas.
- 2 Walk around your school garden and check for hazards, using T3 as a guide. If you think of other items that should be checked, add them to the audit list.
- 3 Remember to look at all areas of the garden including sheds, glasshouses, access routes and nearby facilities that may be used when working in the garden.
- 4 When you have finished, report your findings to the class.

Extended activities

- 1 If you have computer access, use a data handling program to compile a graph of your findings and see where the most hazards are in your garden.
- 2 Design a Health and Safety poster telling people how to be safe when working in the garden.

Health & Safety	Be careful when exploring possible growing areas when completing the Health and Safety Audit. <i>See also Health and Safety Guidelines (Section B3.3)</i>
Activities on DVD	T3 Health and Safety Audit T4 Garden Risk Assessment
Further information	A5 Risk Assessment Health and Safety Executive www.hse.gov.uk