

Computer Technology Safety Tip

Use All 5 Senses.

Whenever you are working on electronic circuits or working with computer equipment you can use all of your senses to detect trouble.

SMELL

This sense often detects trouble before anything else. Do you smell smoke? Maybe it is an unusual ozone smell. Turn your circuit or equipment off right away and call the instructor. Warn the rest of the class. It might not be your project. Something could be getting hot or burning in another part of the lab.

TOUCH

If you feel heat coming from components or an unusual amount of heat from equipment turn it off right away and call your instructor. WATCH OUT. Some components can burn you if you touch them. If you think you have found the source of the heat then hold your finger close without touching.

SOUND

If equipment does not sound normal or if a circuit produces unexpected sounds you should turn it off and call your instructor. Squeaky fan bearings are a sure sign of immanent failure.

SIGHT

If your wiring is not neat then a breadboard circuit could become a hazard. Keeping it neat is keeping it safe. Indicator lamps on equipment are also a good indicator of trouble. If a power LED flashes on and then off as you plug in equipment there could be a short inside.

TASTE

No one should use their sense of taste in electronics. Some materials are caustic or harmful. If you do develop a copper or tin taste in your mouth you may have accidentally touched your mouth after handling components. Don't freak out! ***If you were using chemicals check the WHMIS binder.*** If you were just handling components or equipment then you need to go and rinse your mouth out. If you develop hives or find it hard to breath then call for first aid treatment immediately.
