Good lab practices

• Turn **off** power when wiring up connections
• Double check connections **before** turning power on
• Don’t let bare wires accidentally touch other wires, or the surface of circuit boards
  – Same for oscilloscope probes
• Cut wires to as short as needed and have them lay flat – this makes debugging easier and reduces stray capacitance
• Use a consistent color scheme for wires, such as red for +5V, black for ground, and other colors for other signals.
• Indent code consistently and use comments
• Handle IC’s and circuit boards with care to avoid destruction due to static discharge
  – Touch something metal before working with your circuit, to discharge any static buildup
  – Keep IC’s in electrostatic foam whenever possible and don’t touch the pins
  – This is especially important in cold weather when the air is very dry.

• Like all engineering – it pays to be meticulous and careful!