



Safer Art Products & Practices Program

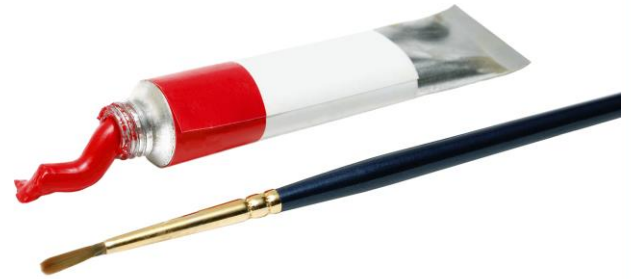
For more information, visit
SFEnvironment.org/artists





Read the label

Avoid paints (acrylic, oil, watercolor, and encaustics) that contain harmful heavy metals. Try switching to the alternative “hue” colors, which produce a similar effect but do not contain certain heavy metals*.



Choose safer art materials by going to **SFApproved.org**

During painting

- Use a rag to wipe off excess paint on the brush.
- Use oils like linseed or walnut to clean brushes.
- Avoid using solvents whenever possible. If you must use solvents, use a brush cleaning tank to reduce exposure and to minimize amount of solvent used. Keep covered when not in use.

After painting

- Most brushes can be cleaned with soap and water. Some brushes may require special cleaning care. Refer to manufacture’s instruction.
- Do not rub/swirl brushes with pigment on the palm of your hand when cleaning with soap or brush cleaner. Use a palette or non reactive surface.

Encaustics

The odor given off by hot wax is due to chemicals which can be hazardous to your health. Keep the wax temperature as low as possible and provide ventilation if this odor is detected.

* Some of the hues may contain Titanium Dioxide pigments (PW6), which is harmful if inhaled. The risk is high when sanding. To reduce exposure to airborne particles when dried: Please wear a N100 mask to protect yourself from inhaling these particles. Conduct wet sanding which generates less airborne dust, and use a sealant or varnish to finish your work.

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Avoid products with CA Prop 65 labels.

These products contain chemicals that may cause cancer, birth defects or other reproductive harm.

Always read labels and safety

instructions on all products. If a label is not visible look for or ask the manufacturer for the ingredients and look up the health effect associated with it on **ChemHAT.org**

WARNING

This Contains a
Chemical Known
To The State Of
California To
Cause Cancer.

If the label is not immediately recognizable, err on the side of caution- assume these products are not safe for use.

Written warnings

When using products or materials from hardware stores, look for written warnings such as the words, "flammable" and "hazardous". Use caution when handling these products. The absence of a warning does not mean the product has been tested for safety.

Informed choices

Choose materials which tend not to create dusts, sprays, vapors, or fumes which can be inhaled.

Use with care

No matter what the label says, maintain the same level of hygiene you would if the product were harmful.

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Surfaces

Instead of priming your surfaces, use pre-primed canvas or boards to reduce exposure to toxic chemicals that could be in grounds or sizes.

Turpentine

Extremely harmful, turpentine may cause asthma and is a skin irritant.

Do not conduct turpentine washes.

Risk of Ingestion

Never point brushes with your lips.

Risk of Inhalation

Apply paints and glazes by brushing or dipping instead of spraying. Spraying a product can increase the likelihood of inhalation.

When working with solvents or products containing solvents, always provide adequate ventilation.

When using aerosol products (spray-paints, adhesives, varnishes), work in a spray booth. If this is not possible, use a studio space that has a spray booth installed.



For more information, visit
SFEnvironment.org/artists





Personal Protective Equipment

Look at the Chemicals of Concern table and choose appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) by looking in the PPE column.

Wash hands

Always wash your hands and under your fingernails thoroughly after you work on your art.

Wear gloves

If skin exposure to paint and solvents is inevitable, wear gloves and long sleeves.

Keep separate work clothes and wash them separately.

Avoid drinking and eating in the studio space. Food and drink kept near your art material can become contaminated with small toxic particles that may be harmful to your health.

Listen to your body and look for signs of exposure and damage such as frequent headaches, dizziness, rash, nausea. To see a list of possible symptoms go to: **hazmap.nlm.nih.gov/types-of-activities**

Always be prepared to provide your doctor with precise information about the chemicals you use and your work practices.



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Storage

Keep all art supplies properly labeled and securely stored, sealed and out of reach of children.

To learn about specific product storage instructions, visit the manufactures website or review the product Safety Data Sheets (SDS).

Cleaning

Floors, tables, and shelving should be made of materials which can be readily cleaned. Never use or clean up art materials in kitchen areas.

Use a vacuum with a HEPA filter or wet mop in your studio to reduce exposure to harmful dust particles; do not sweep as this only moves dust around and increases the risk of inhaling it.

Fire Hazard

Eliminate all sources of ignition such as flames, lit cigarettes, and hot plates with exposed elements.

Use a metal cabinet or fire proof storage for flammable materials.

Rags soaked in painting oils such as linseed or poppy oil can spontaneously combust. For temporary storage, all used oily rags should be in an airtight metal container. To dispose of them, soak the rags in water in a sealed metal container and dispose as hazardous waste.



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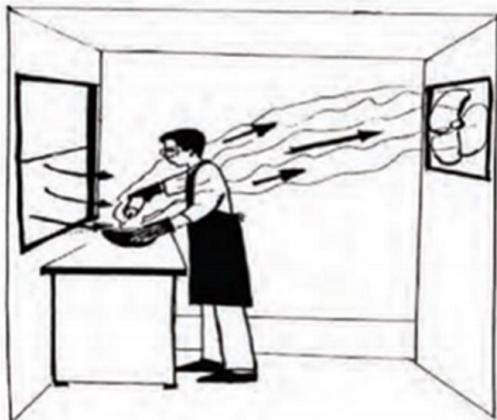
General Ventilation

Provide fresh air by opening windows or doors. Cross ventilation can be provided by having openings such as doors or windows on opposite sides of a room.

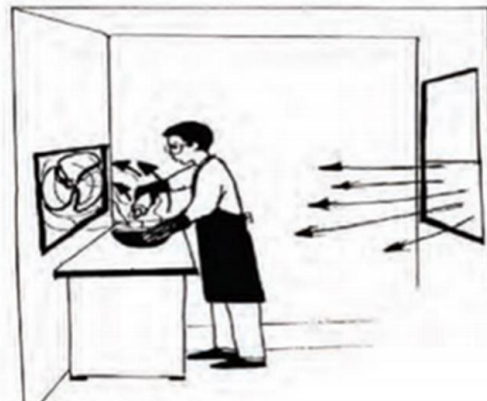
Mechanical Ventilation

There is no one air purifying unit that would work for all art materials. For control of solvent vapors or toxic dusts, consider investing in mechanical ventilation. An industrial ventilation engineer should be able to provide solutions that work for your studio.

If this is not possible, a properly located exhaust fan and open window can be very helpful.



Bad Ventilation



Good Ventilation

Cleaning

When cleaning your workspace ventilate the area well during and after the cleaning.

For more information, visit
SFEnvironment.org/artists





Ingredients

Review the Chemicals of Concern list to learn which ingredients to avoid or use.

Choose safer art materials which reduce your exposure to toxic chemicals by going to

SFApproved.org



Respirators

If a dust mask is not effective or if a respirator is called for, use the Chemicals of Concern list as a starting point. Always consult a doctor to get the appropriate respirator and fit.

Safety Data Sheet

If you are not sure of the ingredients, refer to the SDS provided by the manufacturer. When possible, purchase from companies that provide ingredient information.

Disposal

Many art materials contain hazardous ingredients and should not be poured down the drain, or put in the trash, recycling or composting bins.

Unusable art materials (paints, rags, rinse water) must be treated as hazardous waste. For hazardous waste disposal, call

- Recology at (415) 330-1425 if you are a professional artist.
- Recology at (415) 330-1405 if you are a hobby artist.

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SFEnvironment.org/artists

