HEALTH & SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR GRADUATE PAINTING STUDIOS AT 353 CROWN STREET

Chemical Safety

- EHS requires that Gamsol® (odorless mineral spirits) be used to clean paint brushes, and recommends it as a paint thinner and for other applications in which a solvent is needed. Containers of Gamsol® are available for free from Kris Mandelbaum.
- EHS recommends that you not use paints or other products containing carcinogens (cancer-causing agents) or reproductive toxins. Examples of this would include paints that contain metals such as Barium, Cadmium, Chromium, Lead, Mercury, Selenium, or Silver. Paints that do not contain these toxic metals are excellent substitutes for the paints of higher toxicity. Please check the product’s label or Safety Data Sheet to ensure that the paints you are using do not contain carcinogenic or reproducitively toxic chemicals.
- Only unpainted/unfinished wood should be sanded. Be sure to clean up all sawdust after each sanding activity. EHS recommends that a dust mask be worn while sanding in your studios.
- Products containing Methylene Chloride (Dichloromethane) should not be used. This chemical is a highly regulated carcinogen but is readily available as a paint stripper or in many adhesives. Check the product’s label or Safety Data Sheet to verify that your product does not contain Methylene Chloride.
- Acids should be used inside the Ferric Chloride acid room in the Printmaking Shop at 353 Crown Street ONLY, and the required personal protective equipment shall be worn.
- Solvent based adhesives should be used in a spray booth, wherever feasible.
- Solvent based aerosol products (i.e. spray paint) should be used inside a spray booth ONLY. Do not use aerosol spray cans inside your studios or in the hallways.
- For very smelly products, try to find a low odor substitute that is equally effective. If you must use products with a strong odor, use them in a spray booth, wherever feasible. If it is not feasible to use the spray booth, notify your neighbors when you plan on using them, and open windows and use fans to keep odors as low as feasible.
- Compressors/spray guns should only be used for acrylic and latex paints.
- All chemical containers should be closed when not in use.
- All chemical containers should be labeled with their chemical contents and hazard warnings.
- Chemical spills should be cleaned up immediately wearing proper personal protective equipment. Call EHS at 785-3555 for spill cleanup assistance, as necessary.
Chemical Waste Management & Disposal

- DO NOT POUR ANY CHEMICALS DOWN THE DRAIN, EXCEPT THE WATER THAT YOU USE TO CLEAN NON-METAL BEARING ACRYLIC PAINT FROM PAINT BRUSHES.
- DO NOT PUT ANY CHEMICALS IN THE REGULAR TRASH, EXCEPT EMPTY CONTAINERS.
- Each chemical waste container must be labeled with the words "Hazardous Waste" and with the specific chemical names of the contents (Use the pre-printed labels provided by EHS).
- Chemical waste containers must be kept closed when waste is not being added (i.e. the lid screwed onto the 1 gallon containers; the lid flush against the rim of the red step cans).
- Liquid chemical waste containers should be stored in the blue trays provided by EHS, which are the property of EHS.
- Chemical waste containers must be stored in the room in which the waste is generated until removed by EHS for disposal. Chemical waste containers CANNOT be stored in hallways; keep your chemicals and chemical waste in your studio.
- There should not be excessive chemical waste in any rooms.
- Please see the document “Chemical Waste Q & A” for additional information.

Tool Safety

- Only approved Class 1 tools should be used. Class 1 tools include Dremel tools, cordless drills under 18V, palm Sanders, soldering irons and guns, heat guns, hot melt glue guns, sewing machines, and manual hand tools. Unapproved tools should not be used without a review and approval from EHS.
- Safety glasses with side shields should be worn when using tools.
- Tools should be inspected before each use.
- Tools that are damaged or missing guards should not be used.
- Tools should be appropriate for the work performed (i.e. correctly sized).
- Small and short work pieces should be secured with a vise or clamp.
- The work should be positioned to minimize awkward postures.

Electrical Safety

- Each power strip should be plugged directly into a wall outlet.
- Extension cords should not be used to plug in items that continuously draw electricity; items that continuously draw electricity should be plugged directly into wall outlets.
- Flat extension cords should not be used; use round extension cords only.
- Electrical cords and plugs should not be frayed or otherwise damaged.
- Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) protection should be used for electrical use outdoors, in a wet area or within 6 feet of a water source.
Physical Safety

- Avoid storing items in the stairwells and on the hallway floors. Do not leave anything on the stairs, even for just a moment.
- Avoid creating tripping hazards in the studios.
- When carrying something, make sure you can see over it or around it.
- Allowable hanging/suspended objects should be appropriately and adequately secured.
- You should not work at heights greater than 4 feet without fall protection, unless working off of an approved ladder.
- Platforms/Shelves/Temporary Walls:
  - There should not be any built platforms, shelves or temporary walls unless approved by the School of Art and EHS
  - Shelving units should not be over six feet high (to eliminate having to use a ladder to access the top)
  - Shelving units should be constructed of wood or metal (no plastic or cardboard)
  - Shelving units should be selected or built to hold twice the maximum weight anticipated
  - Shelving units should be secured at the top, to the wall behind it, in at least two places or a minimum of three feet horizontally
  - Shelving units should not be used or designed to be a part of a raised space used for occupancy
  - Shelving units should not block exits or fire extinguishers
  - Shelving units should not be situated in front of windows
  - Shelving units should not be used for cooking appliances

Fire/Life Safety

- Smoking is not allowed inside any Yale University building.
- Open flames should not be used, and operations that will produce sparks should not be performed.
- Cooking appliances should not be installed or used.
- Keep a clear path to and through the door at all times in case of an emergency.
- Note the locations of fire extinguishers in the hallways and in some rooms.
- Areas in front of fire extinguishers and electrical panels should be kept clear and without obstructions.
- Dial 911 from any telephone in case of an emergency.