

## Health & Safety Guidelines for Undergraduate Painting Studios

- The “Labeling of Hazardous Art Materials Act” requires warning labels on products containing known chronically hazardous substances, such as toxic metals, on all art materials sold in the US.
- Exposure routes of concern for chemicals you may use include inhalation, ingestion, and skin absorption.
- 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.
- EHS recommends that you not use 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.
- EHS recommends that you refrain from eating and/or drinking in the studios, spray booth rooms, and shops at the School of Art.
- EHS recommends that you refrain from storing chemicals in food or beverage containers.
- Keep lids on all waste and non-waste chemical containers when they are not in use, in order to minimize exposures and to prevent spills.
- Label each container of solvent that you use to clean your paint brushes with the fluorescent green labels provided by EHS. If you need additional labels, please contact the School of Art Safety Advisor or Facilities Manager.
- Extension cords must not be used as permanent wiring. Power strips and other electrical items must be plugged directly into electrical outlets in the walls.
- Maintain a clear path that is at least 28 inches wide, from your work area to an emergency exit door, in case of an emergency.
- Note the locations of fire extinguishers in the hallways.
- **Smoking is not allowed** in Yale buildings.
- **Dial 911** in case of an emergency.

## Chemical Waste Management & Disposal in Undergraduate Painting

### **Chemical Waste Streams Generated:**

1. Solvents/Paints – use the 1 gallon plastic container in the studio to collect this waste
2. Solvent/Paint/Linseed Oil contaminated rags & other materials – use the red step can in the studio to collect this waste

### **Chemical Waste Management Requirements (EPA, CTDEEP & Yale):**

1. Containers must be labeled as “Hazardous Waste” *and* with their specific chemical contents (**Note:** Use the pre-printed Hazardous Waste labels provided by EHS).
2. Containers must be kept closed at all times except when waste is added (i.e. the lid screwed onto the 1 gallon container; the lid flush against the rim of the red step can).
3. Containers must be stored in the designated Satellite Accumulation Areas (SAA), which is set up near the sink in common areas or by the doorway in studios.
4. Liquid chemical waste containers should be stored in the blue tray provided by EHS, which is the property of Yale EHS.

## Other Important Notes:

- If material is **spilled** on the outside of a container and/or inside the blue tray, wipe up the spilled material with paper towels or spill pads and place the paper towels in the red step can.
- If any materials have come in contact with **linseed oil**, saturate the materials with water before placing them in the red step can.
- **When a red step can becomes full**, pull out the bag; tape the bag closed; attach a pre-printed black and white “Hazardous Waste” label to the bag; and leave the bag in the Satellite Accumulation Area (SAA) located at the front of the studio or under the sink.
- **If you have any other unwanted containers (i.e. spray paint cans, other aerosol cans, etc...)**, label each container as “Hazardous Waste” using the red and white tags provided by EHS; circle the chemical contents of the container, which can be found on the container’s original label; ensure each container is closed; and place the containers in the blue tray in the room.  
**Note:** If the containers will not fit in the blue tray, please reach out to your Safety Advisor or Facilities Manager to provide additional secondary containment.
- Rinse **empty containers**, except oil based paint containers and oil containers, at least three times with water; pour the rinse water down the drain in the studio room or hallway; remove the labels from the containers or cross out the information on the labels; and discard the containers in the **regular trash**.  
**Note:** Glass containers are to be placed in a cardboard box and the box taped closed for disposal in the regular trash.
- EHS recommends the use of **disposable paper palettes** whenever possible. To dispose of used disposable paper palettes, simply place them in the red step cans. If using disposable paper palettes is not feasible, the next palette types recommended are glass and plexiglass because paint can be easily removed. To dispose of used glass and/or plexiglass palettes, remove paint from the palettes and place the paint waste in the red step cans. Once the paint is removed, the glass and plexiglass palettes should be placed inside a cardboard box for disposal as normal trash. If you use wooden palettes, they should be placed directly in the red step can.
- EAS staff will monitor the SAAs in the studios and remove all full containers. If you need containers removed before EAS arrives, call EAS at 203-432-6545 to request to have the containers removed.

### School of Art Safety Advisor

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### School of Art Facilities Manager

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