

GRADUATE PAINTING STUDIOS AT 353 CROWN STREET

Producing artwork has long been thought to be a safe activity. However, many of the materials and machines being used to make art can come with potential risks. If not properly used, art materials and processes can cause damage to property, physical injury or illness. The guidelines below provide an overview of safe work practices to mitigate hazards associated with the arts. Furthermore, an EHS review is needed prior to any fabrication activity that meets the below criteria and occurs outside of a shop.

- Tools in Risk Groups 3-4 outside of student-access shops;
- Hazardous materials or energy (including electrical);
- Atypical activities for fabrication, testing or use;
- Working at heights;
- Structures which will support people or be over people;
- Unusually heavy materials; or
- Unusually awkward or repetitive tasks with materials or tools

Please contact EHS at ehs@yale.edu or 203-785-3550 when in doubt early in the project planning process to ensure activities are performed safely, efficiently and with minimal delays.

Chemical Safety

- 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 (via nose), ingestion (via mouth), and skin absorption (via skin).
- Review the Safety Data Sheets for all materials being used.
- Paints containing **Isocyanates** can only be used with EHS approval.
- 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 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 reproductively toxic chemicals.
- Proposals to work with other materials that are toxic, cause cancer (carcinogens) or have any other inherent health hazard, for which there is no substitute material or process, must be made to EHS in advance and cannot proceed without EHS approval.
- Only unpainted/unfinished wood shall 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)** must 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** shall 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** shall be used in a spray booth, wherever feasible.

- **Solvent based aerosol products** (e.g., spray paint) shall be used inside a spray booth ONLY. Do not use aerosol spray cans inside your studios, in the hallways or in the staircases.
- 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 shall only be used for **acrylic and latex paints**.
- All chemical containers shall be closed when not in use.
- All chemical containers shall be labeled with their chemical contents and hazard warnings.
- Chemical spills must be cleaned up immediately wearing proper personal protective equipment. Call EHS at 203-785-3555 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 (the lid screwed onto the one-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 [Graduate Painting & Sculpture Chemical Waste Q&A](#) for additional information.

Tool Safety

- Class 1 tools may be used in studios.
- The use of Class 3 and greater tools outside of the designated student-access shops is strictly prohibited.
- The use of Class 2 tools by graduate students is permitted in studios ONLY with approval from the School of Art.
- Safety eyewear that meets ANSI Z87+ should be worn when using tools.
- Tools should be inspected before each use.
- Tools that are damaged or missing guards must 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 must be plugged directly into a wall outlet.
- Extension cords should not be used to plug in items that continuously draw electricity; plug continuously running appliances and equipment directly into wall outlets.
- Flat extension cords must not be used; use round extension cords only.
- Electrical cords and plugs must not be frayed or otherwise damaged. Ground prongs must never be removed.
- Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) protection must be used for electrical use outdoors, in a wet area or within 6 feet of a water source.
- Electrical work must never be performed unless approved by the School of Art and EHS.

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.
- Hanging or suspending objects requires approval by the School of Art. Allowable hanging/suspended objects should be appropriately and adequately secured.
- You should not work at heights greater than four feet without fall protection, unless working from an approved ladder.
- The construction of platforms, stairs, ladders or other structures intended to support people requires approval by the School of Art and EHS.
- 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 deep horizontally.
 - Units must not be used or designed to be a part of a raised space used for occupancy.
 - Units should not block exits or fire extinguishers, not be situated in front of windows, and 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.
- 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.
- Keep a clear path to and through the studio door at all times in case of an emergency.
- Keep a 44-inch wide path in the corridors at all times in case of an emergency.
- Ensure that items in the corridors are secured to prevent them from accidentally being moved or tipped over into the 44-inch wide path.
- Dial 911 from any telephone in case of an emergency.