



Purpose

The purpose of the Art Studio Policy is to ensure that the occupants within the studios are aware of the hazards commonly associated with art studio work and the correct way in which to mitigate the risks that they pose.

Applicability

This policy, and all the requirements and related programs stated within, apply to all University of Chicago Art Studios

Types of Artwork Covered

Sculpting: Plaster, stone, lapidary, self-hardening clays, and paper-mache are commonly used to sculpt. Hazards associated with sculpting include, but are not limited to: Dust generated from mixing plasters may be irritating to the eyes and respiratory system; Carving of stone may pose eye hazards from flying chips; and Serpentine, soapstone, and greenstone may contain asbestos.

Painting and Drawing: Painting and drawing materials consist of pigments mixed with various vehicles such as water, oil, wax, egg yolk, casein, resins, and solvent solutions. The primary hazard in standard painting techniques is the accidental ingestion of pigments due to eating, drinking, or smoking while working with paints. Ingestion may occur through inadvertent hand-to-mouth contact or by pointing the tip of the brush with the lips.

Photographic Dark Rooms: Many of the chemicals and processes that take place in photographic dark room can be dangerous if not handled properly. Examples include, but are not limited to: Some chemicals used in photographic processes give off hazardous vapors; Some ingredients can be corrosive; and Some developers can also be absorbed through the skin to cause severe poisoning.

Printing Ink/Metal: The hazards involved with printing with ink or etching into metal tend to fall into two categories, respiratory hazards and fire hazards. Examples include, but are not limited to: During the etching process flammable hydrogen gas is produced; Rosin dust is flammable and may also cause asthma and dermatitis in some individuals; and Nitric acid etching releases the respiratory irritant nitrogen dioxide

Woodworking: Wood sculpture and furniture-making utilizes a large variety of hard and soft woods, including many exotic tropical woods. Many of these woods are hazardous themselves. Sometimes woods are treated with hazardous preservatives or pesticides. The tools used to perform woodworking can also cause injury if handled improperly. Many of the chemicals used to treat wood, such as glues, stains, and sealants can also be hazardous if not applied correctly and without proper ventilation.

Welding: Welding joins pieces of metal by the use of heat, pressure or both. Hazards associated with welding include, but are not limited to: Much of the smoke that is released during welding can be very toxic; The intense heat of welding and sparks can cause burns and fires; The light released during welding can cause damage to eye; The equipment used for welding can cause electric shock; and The compressed gases used for welding are sometimes explosive.

Additional Information

Respirator Usage

Each individual who wears a respirator shall complete a medical evaluation, be properly trained and fit-tested to wear the respirator. Use of respirators shall be done in accordance with the Respiratory Protection Program.

Disposal of Chemical Waste

All photochemicals and used solvents shall be disposed of as hazardous waste by contacting Environmental Health and Safety at 773.702.9999 to schedule a waste pick-up.

All waste shall be disposed of in closeable, leak-proof containers designed for waste pick-up. Refer to the [Hazardous Materials Management policy](#).