

# Management of Art-Related Hazardous and Universal Waste

- Types of Waste
- Handling Hazardous Waste
- General Recommendations

## Types of Waste

There are several types of waste that can be generated in Art Department/MFA Program. Some examples include:

- Oily rags
- Solvent wastes (turpentine/turpenoid, paint thinner, etc.)
- Paints
- Baby oil
- Linseed oil
- Ceramic glaze
- Photographic chemicals
- Acids and bases
- Sharp implements
- Lubricating oils
- Broken Glass/Sharp Implements

Many of these materials when discarded are considered *hazardous waste* by the [US Environmental Protection Agency](#) and require special handling. These materials may not be poured down the drain.

## Oily Rags



Oily rags must be placed in a **red oily rag** can such as the one pictured here. The cans are located in the Hazardous Waste Accumulation Areas (Note: Please be familiar with the locations) Do not leave oily rags lying on the floor. Linseed oil, in particular, can ignite on its own if left out, causing fire that may spread to other areas. The oily rag can is self-closing to prevent such an occurrence.

## Solvents



Solvents, such as paint thinner, turpentine, toluene, xylene, and alcohols are considered hazardous waste. **DO NOT DUMP** these materials down the drain. Follow the instructions for handling hazardous waste.

## Paints



Oil-based paints are considered hazardous waste. **DO NOT DUMP** oil-based paint down the drain or place in regular trash. Oil-based paints may be combined with

solvents and linseed oil for disposal. Follow the instructions for **handling hazardous waste**. ONLY water-based paints like latex can be DRIED OUT and then disposed of via the regular trash.

### Linseed Oil



Because of its potential for fire, linseed oil should be handled as a hazardous waste, in a similar manner as solvents. Linseed oil can be combined with oil-based paints and solvents for disposal. Follow the instructions for handling hazardous waste.

### Ceramic Glazes



Many ceramic glazes contain metals that are considered hazardous waste. Unused portions of the glazes should be disposed as hazardous.

## Photographic Chemicals



Photographic chemicals generally fit into four categories: fixers, developers, rinses, and specialized chemicals. Standard developers and rinses can be rinsed down the drain during processing. Most fixers contain silver in quantities above the amount allowed for sewer disposal. Fixer wastes must be run through the silver recovery unit. Specialized chemicals, such as special acids and bases, should be assumed to be hazardous waste and collected accordingly.

## Acids and Bases



Materials with a pH of less than 2 or more than 12.5 are considered hazardous waste. Do not mix these wastes with the solvent or oil wastes. Use care when handling acids and bases and follow the instructions for handling hazardous waste.

## Lubricating Oil



Various oil such as pump oil, motor oil and other machine oil are recyclable. These materials should be placed in a plastic container, sealed and labeled as *Used Oil*. Do not label them as hazardous waste or as waste oil. Fill-up containers of Used oil can be stored in the Hazardous accumulation area or call appropriate personnel for assistance.

## Broken Glass/Sharp Implements



Sharp objects, such as razor blades, knives, and broken glass should be packaged in a puncture-proof jar or box and placed in the regular trash. Pre-packaging helps to avoid injury to custodial personnel or others handling the trash.

## Handling Hazardous Waste

- Materials that are to be disposed of as hazardous waste must be placed in sealable containers.
- Containers should be filled-up, leaving a headspace for expansion of the contents. Often the original container is perfectly acceptable.

- If you routinely generate significant quantities of compatible solvents, bulking of waste in five-gallon carboys provided by EHS may be practical.
- Similar wastes may be mixed if they are compatible (**e.g solvents, linseed oil and oil-based paint**).
- Containers must be **kept closed** except during actual transfers. **Do not leave a hazardous waste container with a funnel in it.**

**Waste containers must be labeled as hazardous waste as soon as the material is first put into the container. Waste container labels are available on each flammable liquid storage cabinet and through Tim Laun's Office.**

**Hazardous Waste**  
Federal law prohibits improper disposal.  
Container must be securely capped at all times.

**Chemical Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_  
(If a mixture, give approximate percentage of components)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Characteristics:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Precautions:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Room & Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

Call x4462 for pick up when 80% full  
Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Accumulation Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(date filled)

## **Procedure**

- 1. Place the waste materials in an appropriate waste container.**
  - 2. Seal the container. Do not leave a funnel in an open container.**
  - 3. Ensure the container has a completed hazardous waste sticker on it. If there is no room for a sticker, or if a sticker is not immediately available, write the words "Hazardous Waste" on the container and ensure that the contents are clear.**
-

## General Recommendations

- Don't purchase more of a material than you expect to use in the foreseeable future. The costs of disposal often exceed the purchase cost by a considerable margin.
- Substitute with a less hazardous material whenever possible.
- Consistent with safe practice, bulk compatible waste in containers up to five gallons in capacity (consult with EHS first).
- Keep all chemical containers clearly and unambiguously labeled.
- Dispose of your wastes at the completion of a project - don't abandon them for someone else to deal with later.

## Painting and Drawing

\*\*\* Working safely can involve changes in how you select your art materials, and how you handle them.

PLEASE NOTE: For turpentine and thinners, please use containers supplied by EHS thru Tim Laun's Office. Keep containers sealed or covered. Use foil to cover (if cap is missing) when not in use. Do not use food or beverage containers.

---

## Pigments



Painters use pigments in oil paints, acrylics, watercolor paints, gouache, encaustic, poster paints, casein paints and tempera. Sometimes commercial paints such as oil, enamel, epoxy paints and automobile paints are used.

Paints are pigments mixed with a vehicle or binder. Both inorganic and organic pigments are used as colorants. Dry pigments are especially hazardous because they are easily inhaled and ingested

## Universal Waste (UW)

**\*\*\* Inform custodial personnel to pick up Universal waste produced from the studios. Make sure they are intact. This must also be labeled as "Universal waste" – labels are available at TL's Office or call EHS for any assistance. \*\*\***

1. Lamps (Fluorescent and HD light bulbs)



2. Batteries



3. Pesticides



4. Thermostats and other Mercury containing equipment (Barometers, manometers, temperature and pressure gauges, and mercury switches)



## **CRTs and other Electronic waste (e-waste)**



1. Computer monitors (CRT and LCD)
2. Personal computer
3. Printers, Fax, Scanner, Copier