

As in any artistic pursuit, safety is a paramount concern for the contemporary artist. Increased awareness of health and safety issues in all work environments does not exclude the creative environment. Please review the list below.

## **ART 221 / ART 321 / ART 421 - PHOTO LAB SAFETY TOPICS**

**MSDS.** Material Safety Data Sheets are available in the studio for all the chemicals/materials we use in this class.

1. Following certain basic safety guidelines helps to make the artist's work in the studio and laboratory safer and healthier.
2. In photography classes you will be preparing solutions of chemicals frequently. Most often this involves diluting a concentrated solution into a working solution.
3. Never mix or pour chemicals in the vicinity of your eyes. Always pour chemistry below eye level.
4. Wear safety eyewear when necessary to prevent accidental chemical exposure of eyes.
5. Do not put your face in close proximity to chemicals. Chemicals can inadvertently splash on to you.
6. Do not inhale chemical vapors.
7. Whenever you are diluting chemical concentrates be certain to pour the water first and then add the chemical concentrate. If your container has water in it a chemical concentrate is less likely to splash in concentrated form.
8. When handling chemicals be certain to wear protective gloves or use tongs to minimize the risk of exposing your skin to the chemicals.
9. It is a myth, often reflected in popular films and television, that photographic chemicals are safe. **NEVER** place your hands in any chemical solution. Students who ignore this guideline may be expelled from their course.
10. If you get photographic chemistry on your clothing, other than a small droplet, you should remove the clothing as soon as possible to avoid exposure to the skin.
11. If you get photographic chemistry on your skin flush the affected area with water immediately. Avoid prolonged exposure of the skin to photographic

chemicals since they may induce an allergic reaction. This is often seen as a rash on the skin.

12. Ventilation equipment must be in use whenever you are using a darkroom or processing facility. Students who ignore this guideline may be expelled from their course.
13. Be certain not to operate any electrical equipment (timers, enlargers, dryers, etc.) with wet hands. Make certain your hands and your working area are dry before plugging in electrical devices.
14. Small chemical spills should be wiped up immediately with paper towel and you should be wearing gloves. In the event of a large spill you should contact your instructor or the Security Department.
15. Check all containers before handling them to be certain they are properly sealed.
16. If you are uncertain about the proper use of any equipment or materials for this course you should always ask the instructor first for assistance.
17. Be careful - do not splash or drip chemicals on your classmates.
18. Be considerate of those working near you. Always alert others to any safety concerns you might have. Pay attention to warning signs.
19. For security purposes no student is permitted to work in the studio areas of the Art Department after 6:00 PM without a classmate or friend in the immediate vicinity.
20. Clean up completely after you have finished your work. A clean studio environment provides a safer working environment for everyone.
21. The Security Department phone number is 5000. In case of an emergency you may wish to contact them.