

ART 125/323 – SILKSCREEN SAFETY GUIDELINES

The safe use and handling of materials is very important. Please adhere to the following safety guidelines.

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

2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

- Chemical Splash Goggles:** Always use protective eyewear whenever employing cleaning agents, during pressure washing of your screen or any other instance which represents a hazard to your eyes/vision.

- Ear Protection:** You must wear ear protection when washing out screens.

- Nitrile Rubber Gloves:** Wear gloves to avoid skin contact with paints, inks, dyes, bases, emulsion, reclaimer or cleaning agents.

- Apron/Smock:** Wear an apron or old clothes to protect yourself and your clothing.

3. Ventilation.

- Ventilation equipment must be in use whenever you are using a studio facility. Window fans should be on. Open windows when outdoor temperatures allow.

- In addition to the operation of window fans, the air cleaners located above the washout sink in room 143 should be running at the high setting when using Greased Lightning or Emulsion Remover.

- Avoid inhaling chemical vapors.

4. Splashes/Spills.

- If you get chemicals, solvents or inks on your skin flush the affected area with water immediately. A shower is located in rm. 143 when the tap is not sufficient. Avoid prolonged exposure of the skin to chemicals, solvents or inks. Remember that the skin is porous and actually absorbs some materials.

- If you accidentally splash chemicals or solvents into your eyes alert an instructor or classmate nearby to your predicament. Immediately rinse your eyes thoroughly with water at the eyewash station. If irritation persists after rinsing your eyes or if you have any further concerns go directly to the infirmary and report the incident to the staff.

- If you get photographic/screen print chemistry on your clothing you should remove the clothing as soon as possible to avoid exposure to the skin.

- 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.

5. Electrical Hazards.

Dry your hands before plugging/unplugging or turning on/off electrical equipment. Electrical devices should be plugged into the ground fault indicator/detector in room 143. The GFI is located near the center of the room.

6. Handling Materials & Equipment.

- Never pour chemicals in the vicinity of your eyes. Always pour chemistry below eye level and away from your face.
- 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.
- Check all containers before handling them to be certain they are properly sealed.
- Never point the pressure washer at anyone.
- 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.

7. Storage and Labeling of Materials.

- All containers must be labeled to identify contents.
- Re-seal all container lids well.

8. Disposal of Materials.

- Any rags or paper towels contaminated with oils, solvents or flammable liquids should be disposed of in the black drum located in the inside the yellow flammables cabinet in the print shop area. Never discard solvent contaminated materials in regular trash containers.
- Save inks for later use. For proper disposal of inks, place ink in used ink bucket labeled for that purpose. Only trace amounts of ink/emulsion should go into trash or down drain.
- To assure that hazardous materials do not enter the water system via the sinks or waste disposal it is every student's responsibility to follow studio guidelines for legal and ethical reasons.

9. Do not work alone in the studios after dark.

- 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.

10. Be considerate and aware of others working near you.

11. Clean Studio.

- Clean up completely after you have finished your work. A clean studio environment provides a safer working environment for everyone.

12. Do not eat or drink in the studio to avoid accidental ingestion of chemicals/materials.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY, CONTACT SECURITY AT #5000.

POWER WASHER INSTRUCTIONS

WARNING: DO NOT GET WATER ON THE POWER WASHER

1. Before using the power washer check the wand to be certain the power washer wand is in the "off" position and will not discharge liquid.
2. Be certain the water supply hose is attached to the power washer.
3. Be certain the cold water supply is turned on at the faucet. Use **ONLY** the **COLD** water and make certain the tap is opened completely. Never run hot water through the power washer, it will wear out the machine faster.
5. Dry your hands (if wet) and switch the washer to the "ON" position.
6. For your personal safety you are required to wear eye and ear protection when operating the power washer. Students who ignore this guideline may be expelled from the course.

AFTER USING THE POWER WASHER

7. When you are done using the power washer dry your hands, turn off the power and turn off the water supply.
8. Lastly, return all protective safety gear to the proper storage location. Do not leave gloves, eyewear or ear protectors on tables, in sinks, etc.

* Never point the wand outside the sink or at another individual-the pressure levels of this instrument could cause serious injury.

* Never leave the pump running when not in use.

* Never leave the faucet running when not in use.

* Never run hot water through the pump.