

CHEMICAL HAZARDS:

Drawing materials are pigments (raw color) suspended in a vehicle (carrier) such as wax, inert minerals (pastels, conte, crayons, chalks), or liquids (solvent based inks and marking pens).

- Pencils contain "leads" made of graphite and clay or pigmented clay/binder mixtures (colored pencils).
- Drawing inks may contain hazardous dyes and solvents. Skin contact should be avoided. If drawing inks are used contact EH&S for waste issues.
- Dry pastels can release pigment and other small particles that can enter the airway.
- Oil pastels contain small amounts of oils and waxes, these keep dust particles from becoming airborne and are slightly safer.



The hazards of drawing arise due to exposure to pigments, vehicles, or solvents. This happens most often when powders or dust are inhaled. Physical contact with some materials may cause skin irritation.

If solvents are to be used, contact EH&S for proper storage and disposal.

Prevention:

- Minimize your inhalation of dusts when handling dry pigments.
- Do not work near a draught or fan that will blow them about.
- Do not eat, drink, or smoke when working with drawing materials.
- Wear dedicated work clothing and launder frequently.
- Keep your work areas clean; wet mop to avoid disturbing settled dust.
- If possible, work with pigments that you have first wetted into a paste or liquid.
- Store pigments in sealed, easy to open containers.
- Protect hands and skin:
 - Wear gloves, especially if you have cuts or abrasions.
 - Wash your hands frequently - Do not allow your hands to get caked in materials
 - Keep your hands away from your face and eyes.

Waste

If oil pastels or solvents are used their waste products must be kept for hazardous materials testing. The waste must be stored safely in a closed and labeled container. Contact EH&S for containers and training for handling the waste products.

REVISION HISTORY		
Rev	Affected Page	Change Descriptions
0	All	Release 9/15/12
1	All	Formatting Changes on all pages, 5/29/14
2	All	Update to New Format 4/28/2017
3	All	Minor edits, 4/24/2020