

# PAINTING HAZARDS

## Studio Solvent Policy

Solvents, even "odorless" solvents, pose a serious health threat to everyone in the studio. Whenever possible, solvents should be avoided. Using water miscible oils or cleaning brushes with oil followed by a wash in soap and water (see articles below) will help to reduce exposure. In addition, the two back rooms have special ventilation that was installed specifically to vent hazardous fumes.

**ALL PAINTERS WHO USE SOLVENTS** other than water must use one of the two back rooms and ensure that the exhaust fans are turned on. The exhaust fans switches are next to the light switches and are marked and protected from accidental switching by a cover. The exhaust fan in the room with the lockers and slots should always be left on. Please dispose of solvent soaked rags or paper towels in the trash cans in the back rooms only and avoid disposing of large quantities of soaked rags or paper towels. Please dispose of used solvent in the closed containers provided. Please cover your solvent containers unless dipping a brush in them.

**By following these simple guidelines, we can make our studio environment safer for everyone.**

In addition, the following solvents and chemicals are extremely hazardous and cannot be used anywhere in the studio:

- Acetone
- Denatured alcohol (contains benzene)
- Mineral spirits with odor (odorless is okay in one of the back rooms)
- Spray paint of any kind
- Spray finishes of any kind
- Spray adhesive of any kind
- Turpentine

Any product that contains:

- Acetone
- Benzene
- Heptane
- Hexane
- MEK (methyl ethyl ketone)
- Toluene
- Turpentine
- Xylene

[How to Clean Oil Paint Brushes without Toxic Solvents - ARTiculations](#)

[How to Clean Up After Oil Painting Without Solvent \(finearttutorials.com\)](#)