
Appendix D: Art Hazards

Materials

Many materials commonly used in the art classroom pose potential health risks to both teachers and students, the danger varying from slight to great. Ingestion, inhalation, and absorption are the three methods by which toxic materials enter the body. Precautionary and preventative measures will reduce the health risks posed by various art materials.

Canadian law does not require manufacturers to label art materials and list ingredients. The absence of legislation makes it difficult to identify hazardous chemicals that may be used to process or treat art materials. In many cases information can be obtained only by writing the manufacturer. Teachers are urged to do so if they have any questions.

Dangerous Art Materials

These materials are extremely dangerous and must not be used:

- !
- ! cyanide solutions (potassium ferrocyanide)
- !
- ! cadmium silver solder
- !
- ! benzene
- !
- ! carbon tetrachloride
- !
- ! chloroform
- !
- ! ethylene dichloride
- !
- ! trichloroethylene
- !
- ! perchloroethylene
- !
- ! uranium oxide (glaze)
- !
- ! arsenic oxide (glaze)
- !
- ! lead chromate
- !
- ! zinc chromate
- !
- ! asbestos, talc clays, vermiculite
- !
- ! benzidine-type dyes in some coloured papers
- !
- ! aerosol fixative sprays
- !
- ! methylhydrate