INTRODUCTION

Water-based paints include water color, acrylic, gouache, tempera and casein. Water is used for thinning and cleanup.

CHEMICAL HAZARDS:

WATERCOLORS AND GOUACHE:

Watercolors (dry cakes) are composed of pigments, preservatives (often paraformaldehyde) and binders such as gum arabic or gum tragacanth. Liquid watercolors may also contain water, glycerine, glucose and other materials. Both liquid and dry watercolors may give off small amounts of formaldehyde, but generally need no exhaust ventilation.

Gouache is an opaque watercolor which contains pigments, gums, water, preservatives, glycerine, opacifiers and other ingredients. The opacifiers may be chalk, talc or other substances. Formaldehyde may be used as a preservative.

ACRYLIC PAINTS:

Acrylic paints contain a small amount of ammonia. Some sensitive people may experience eye, nose and throat irritation from the ammonia. Acrylics and some gouaches contain a very small amount of formaldehyde as a preservative. Only people already sensitized to formaldehyde would experience allergic reactions from the trace amount of formaldehyde found in acrylics. The amounts can vary from manufacturer to manufacturer.

Acrylic paints (Water-Based Emulsions) are composed of synthetic acrylic resins and pigments with many additives usually including an ammonia-containing-stabilizer and formaldehyde preservative. The small amounts of ammonia and formaldehyde released during drying can cause respiratory irritation and allergies.
Acrylic Paints (Solvent-Based) are synthetic acrylic resins and pigments dissolved in solvents. The solvents should be identified and ventilation sufficient to keep the solvent's concentration at a safe level should be provided. The waste generated from solvent based paints should be handled the same as oil based paints. (See oil based paint guidance).

CASEIN PAINTS:

Casein paints use the protein casein as a binder. While soluble forms are available, casein can be dissolved in ammonium hydroxide which is moderately irritating by skin contact and highly irritating by eye contact, ingestion, and inhalation.

WASTE ISSUES

Wastewater from the first and second brush wash is to be poured from the wash container into the supplied drum. Replace the cap when done. See Below.

Wash the brush in a small container with water

Pour the wash water into the provided drum

Note on drum filling: Do not mix Water Based Wash Water with Oil Based Paint Wash Water. Drums are considered full when there is two inches of space left in the drum. Do not overfill the drums.
CONTAINER LABELS
Containers will be labeled as follows for water based paint waste (Labels 1 and 2:

1. In this case the start date is the date you first use the container. Complete Full date is when the container is full. Contact EH&S right away for a pickup. Contents will be whatever is in the container. Waste Paint Tubes; Paint Wash Water; Rags/Paper Waste; etc.

Use label 3 as well as labels 1 and 2 for Paint tube waste
EH&S will supply all waste containers and labels. Contact 2788 or 6455 for containers.

Fill out the hazardous waste pickup Request found on the EH&S website under forms.

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