

Studio Safety

- Painters have been using turpentine for hundreds of years because it was commonly available. Pure 100% **odorless mineral spirits** (OMS) is an innovation of the late 20th century so it is no wonder that many painters do not know yet how safe and available OMS is.
- **Recycling solvents:** Set up a simple system. After a painting session, pour dirty solvent into the first can. Let the solvent settle then pour off the clear solvent into the second clean can. Repeat the process and add another settling can if needed. Keep all settling cans completely closed. Once solvent will no longer settle, dispose with motor oil at a local recycling center.
- Turpentine is toxic waste. Call the local recycling center for disposal instruction. Because Turpentine is a bio-hazard, **DO NOT DUMP TURPENTINE INTO THE SOIL.**
- Sludge from recycling cans of OMS and artists' grade oil colors that do not have health warning labels on the packaging can be disposed of as normal household waste. Because linseed oil soaked rags can spontaneously combust, keep all rags, including paper towels, in closed metal containers.
- To protect the watershed, no artists' materials, including acrylics, oil/water media and watercolors, should be washed down the drain.
- Regarding toxic pigments, lead is the only toxic pigment still occasionally used in oil painting. As long as artists do not sand lead-based grounds or paints, the greatest risk to using lead-based paints (such as Flake White) or oil painting ground is quality. Lead pigments are no longer being made in Western Europe or North America. Currently, there are no reliable sources of pigment. Painters should not assume that they are buying genuine Flake White any more.
- Do not sand lead-based paints because that releases the pigment from the binder. Dispose of solvent containing lead pigments with hazardous materials.

DO NOT DISPOSE OF LEAD-BASED PAINTS or SOLVENT CONTAINING LEAD PIGMENTS IN HOUSEHOLD TRASH.

- Regarding other pigments and oil paints, the art materials' industry is the second most regulated industry in America. If you do not see caution labels, the materials are not toxic. For more information on health warning labels, contact the **ACMI**.

The above information was taken from www.gamblincolors.com

The Art & Creative Materials Institute, Inc.

ACMI's certification program has received the endorsement of experts in the field of toxicology and is one of the finest industry programs in existence. The following are suggestions for working with artists materials:

Read the label!

- Always use products that are appropriate for the individual user.
- Children in grade six and lower and adults who may not be able to read and understand safety labeling should use only non-toxic materials.
- Do not eat, drink or smoke while using art and craft materials.
- Wash up after use - Clean yourself and your supplies.
- Never use products for skin painting or food preparation, unless indicated that the product is meant to be used in this way.
- Do not transfer art materials to other containers - You will lose the valuable safety information that is on the product package.

For more information go to www.acminet.org