

Safety Precautions & Studio Protocol

Art 317 – Fiber: Dyeing

- 1. Wear a NIOSH approved mask or respirator for particulates (or K95 mask) whenever working with dye or chemical powders.**
Why? Some of the dry materials are irritants to the respiratory system. Once the solutions are in liquid form (with the exception of THIOX) you can remove your mask.
- 2. Wear gloves whenever working with liquid dye or chemical solutions.**
Why? gloves provide a protective barrier so your hands are not stained by the dye and so you do not absorb the liquid chemicals through your skin.
- 3. Immediately wipe up any spills on the counter tops or floors.**
Why? This prevents getting any liquids or powders on clothing or skin. Also, liquid spills can provide a hazard for slipping, and if aren't wiped up, the particulates in the liquid can become airborne once dehydrated.
- 4. Always use oven mitts when handling hot pots.**
- 5. Precautions for using the gas stovetop in the Dye Lab:**
 - **Hair must be tied back and arranged in a way in which there is no possibility of it coming into contact with the flame of the stove**
 - **Always have a pot on the burner *before* turning the knob to start the flame.**
 - **Whenever using the gas stove you must stay in the proximity of the Dye Lab/classroom. If you need to leave the stove must be turned off, even if just going to the restroom, unless someone else is monitoring the stove for you.**
 - **No spoons or ladles are to be left in pots while they are on the stove. The heat transfers to the handles and can become dangerous.**
 - **If ladling a hot liquid from a pot on the stove into another container, first turn off the burner, then put the pot on a silicone pot holder and ladle into a heat proof container with a handle (Pyrex glass measuring cups with handles).**
 - **If you start a burner, it is your responsibility to turn it off.**
- 6. Wax pots need to be plugged in 45 min. before use. Make sure that they are on the stainless steel counter top, and have newsprint underneath them to collect any drips. If you need to transfer them to a work table, make sure that there are several layers of newsprint beneath them to collect liquid wax so it doesn't melt or soil the plastic on the tables.**
- 7. Hot plates must stay on stainless steel countertop. Always use oven mitts when handling hot pots. If you turn on a hot plate, it is your responsibility to turn it off, and you must stay on the vicinity of the Dye Lab/classroom if using. If you need to leave at anytime (even to go to the restroom) you must turn off the burner unless someone else is monitoring it for you.**

8. **Irons must be turned off after each use. Never let an iron sit unattended. Never leave a hot iron face down. Always unplug at the end of your session.**

9. **Checklist before leaving the classroom. Every time you leave the classroom after working in the studio during studio hours, please check for the following, even if you were not using the items mentioned:**
 - **Gas stove burners off**
 - **Hotplates off & unplugged**
 - **Wax pots off & unplugged**
 - **Irons off and unplugged.**
 - **Equipment washed, dried and put away**
 - **Spills wiped up**
 - **Tables wiped down.**

Additional Notes:

- **A fire extinguisher is located next to the washing machine in the Dye Lab.**
- **Towels for wiping up spills are above the washing machine & dryer.**
- **If using the dryer, make sure to clean out the lint collector prior to use.**
- **All equipment should be washed dried and put away.**
- **Always schedule a work session with a classmate if you are working in the studio in the evening and after classes have ended. Why? For personal safety in the event someone menacing enters the studio, or if there is an accident or injury there will be someone who can call for help.**