



SAFETY INFORMATION

DYEING SAFETY GUIDELINES

APPLICABLE TO:

Anyone working with Costumes in CSULB Theatre facilities or classrooms, facilities used by the Theatre Arts Department.

RISKS INCLUDE:

Personal injury, injury to others, temporary and/or permanent visual and respiratory impairment, damage to equipment and facilities.

GUIDELINES, RULES AND PROCEDURES:

- All persons working in the laundry/dye area must ALWAYS have the approval of the Costume Shop Manager or Costume Instructor.
- Know where the nearest first-aid kits and eye wash stations are located.
- Know where the nearest fire extinguisher and fire alarm pull boxes are located.
- Dyeing fabric generally requires heating, which can:
 - Create a fire hazard.
 - Create a potentially toxic chemical reaction.
 - Chemically alter synthetic fabric.
- Always look at the MSDS sheets for the product that you are using.
- Always check the MSDS sheets for proper storage and disposal.
- Always use proper ventilation.
- Always wear protective covering when dyeing and washing, to include, but not limited to:
 - The correct glove for the chemicals used.
 - Protective clothing (long sleeved, cotton, etc. – to be determined by project)
 - Goggles or face mask.
 - Dusk mask if using powdered dye.
 - Respirators.
- Dyes may be minimally to highly toxic and corrosive, especially in concentrated form
 - With skin contact, may burn, may be absorbed into the body, cause ulceration and allergic reactions.
 - May be corrosive to skin and respiratory system and create scarring.
 - Hazards may be through skin contact (including eyes), inhalation, ingestion, etc.
 - Combinations of dyes and commonly used cleaners (such as bleach) can create highly toxic gases.
- Many dyes have not been adequately studied with respect to their long term hazards, so always take precaution when working with dyes.
- Use dyes in liquid or paste form when possible to eliminate inhalation risks.
- Mix dye powders inside a glove box, enclosed hood or wear an NIOSH (National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health) approved respirator. Consult the instructor or supervisor prior to use.
- Solvents and by-products (such as melting wax in Batik Dyeing Technique) are just as hazardous and can cause burns, irritation to eyes and respiratory system, skin irritation and ulceration, and create toxic gasses.

REFERENCES:

Loyola University, Chicago, Department of Fine and Performing Arts, Safety Information Sheet
Artist Beware, Textile Arts Data Sheet, Chapter 21 of the 2nd edition, Dr. McCann, 1993, Center for Safety in the Arts
CSULB, Theatre Arts Department, Costumes

EMERGENCY ☎: 911



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- Use of Irons:
 - Never leave the iron in one place on a garment or unattended. The garment will be scorched or melt onto the sole of the iron and a fire could be started.
 - Always use the proper ironing aid to press your garment or cloth. NEVER use your hand or you will get burned.
 - Never steam toward your body or you will get burned.
 - Always unplug the iron after use.
 - Always unplug the when leaving the room.
- Always unplug the hot plate after using.
- Always turn off the gas burners after using.
- Always lock the door when you leave.
- ALWAYS ask your supervisor or instructor if you have any questions or concerns.

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