



# Paints, Dyes, Inks



**Paint and glaze materials are standard for scene and prop shop painting activities, as well as the use of pure pigments for mixing into the glaze, dyes for French enamel varnish (FEV) work, bronzing powders, and gold leaf. Paints, dyes, and inks are commonly used in costume design. Dyes are often used to change the color of the hair of performers and wigs.**

## General Guidelines

1. Know the location of the nearest emergency eyewash station, first aid kit, and fire alarm pull boxes.
2. Know the location of the nearest fire extinguisher, but only use it if trained in its proper use.
3. Review the product Safety Data Sheet (SDS) prior to using a product for the first time or for a material that is infrequently used. Follow the stated safety precautions.
4. Never use paint thinner to remove paint, dye, or ink from your skin. Only use materials specifically formulated to remove paint, dye, or ink from skin.
5. Maintain good housekeeping practices:
  - a. Maintain clean and organized paint, dye, and pigment storage and use areas.
  - b. Clearly label the containers.
  - c. Immediately clean up spills.
  - d. Never allow paint, chemicals, or other materials to accumulate on shop floors, shelves, or stage floors; under platforms; or in other work areas where they do not belong.
  - e. Store flammable and combustible materials in NFPA-approved storage cabinets.
  - f. Properly dispose of all hazardous waste in a timely manner in accordance with the Campus-specific hazardous waste disposal procedures.
  - g. Never dump chemicals down the sink, storm drain, or septic systems or in the trash.
  - h. Keep floors swept clean of debris.
  - i. Remember, the lack of appropriate housekeeping increases the risk of chemical exposure.
6. Never eat, drink, or prepare foods or beverages in areas where chemicals are used or stored.
7. Wash your hands prior to eating, drinking, preparing food, or smoking.

## When Working With Powdered Materials

1. Use water-based products if available.
2. Select pre-mixed paints and dyes when available.
3. Measure, mix, and handle powders in a designated and contained glove box or in a hood equipped with local exhaust ventilation.

4. Wear chemically resistant gloves to protect your skin and protective clothing, such as a lab coat, to protect your clothing.
5. Wear chemical goggles when using caustic dyes and other corrosive chemicals.
6. Wear a dust mask if using large amounts of powdered dye.
7. Ensure the container is tightly sealed after dispensing the material.
8. Damp mop or sponge to clean floors and spilt powders.



### When Working With Liquids and Aerosols

1. Wear safety glasses when applying paints and dyes.
2. Wear protective clothing, such as painter's coveralls and a painter's cap to keep paint out of your hair and off your scalp.
3. Ensure the room is properly ventilated; use fans if necessary to move the fumes and vapors out of the area and away from your breathing zone.
4. Use a ventilation hood when applying aerosol paints and dyes.
5. Use the appropriate respiratory protection device when applying aerosol paints and dyes whenever appropriate ventilation is not available.
6. Wear chemically resistant gloves when your hands will come into contact with the dyes, such as when wigs and human hair is dyed.

### Waste Disposal

1. Dispose of waste paint, inks, and dyes as directed by the product manufacturer and in accordance with the UC Hazardous Waste Management Plan.
2. Contact the EH&S Department for more information and guidance regarding hazardous waste management. They will provide guidance regarding:
  - a. Proper storage of the waste until it is collected
  - b. Proper labeling of the waste containers
  - c. Special handling requirements based on the hazard characteristics of the waste

*Talk to your supervisor if you have any questions about this information.*