GUIDELINES FOR SAFE MAKING AT HOME

The Instructional Support Spaces/Institutional Resources and Facilities Management (IRFM) team has developed some basic guidelines for students making art in a home studio environment, in order to ensure the health and safety of the artist and anyone else living in the home. A more extensive document addressing specific art-making practices is in development and will be shared in the future.

- All art-making materials should only be used according to the manufacturer’s approved usages, and those usage scenarios should follow all Safety Data Sheet (SDS) precautions for the product.
- Do not use toxic substances or processes.
- Stick to no-VOC or low-VOC products in small quantities, and avoid powders and pigments that could contain silica or heavy metals.
- Anything that would normally have been done in a spray booth is not safe for the home studio environment.
- Always use personal protective equipment (PPE) when necessary and according to manufacturer guidance.
- Ask yourself if a material is really necessary, and when possible, substitute it for a less toxic material.
- If utilizing power or hand tools, use only those tools you are trained on and are comfortable controlling. Tools should be maintained in good working order with required guards installed, and used in conjunction with proper PPE (goggles, respiratory and/or hearing protection). Comply with manufacturer guidelines for the tool’s usage.
- Tools should not be used to process toxic or potentially sensitizing materials such as plastic, painted surfaces, or materials containing formaldehyde binders or adhesives.