

Safe Handling & Disposal of Art & Photography Supplies

Photography Supplies

The "fixer" solution that is used in the photo developing process in the classroom contains high levels of silver, which is a toxic contaminant that can disturb the biological action of sewage treatment plants and harm aquatic life. Some fixer solutions may be corrosive and can burn skin and eyes.

SAFE HANDLING

- Store solutions in plastic buckets or bottles
- Keep containers closed when not in use
- Clearly label containers with their contents
- Store materials in a secure area that is locked and out of reach of children
- Keep darkroom ventilated when using photographic chemicals

PROPER DISPOSAL

- The BCAE employs an outside company that accepts and disposes of all of its silver-bearing fixer waste
- Dispose of all fixer material in the blue barrels located in each darkroom
- Never pour photographic waste liquids down the drain

Art Supplies

Paint thinners and solvents used in some BCAE art classes may contain Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC's) that may be toxic to inhale and which can be absorbed through the skin. These thinners and solvents are also flammable.

SAFE HANDLING

- Keep thinners and solvents in closed and labeled glass or metal containers
- Store thinners and solvents away from sources of sparks or heat
- Never put left-over thinners or solvents in the trash or down the drain

PROPER DISPOSAL

- The BCAE employs an outside company that accepts and disposes of all of its paint thinners and solvents
- After use, dispose of all waste material in the clearly-marked storage drums located in the BCAE's art rooms

For more information on the proper use and disposal of the hazardous materials involved in art and photography instruction, please visit the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection web site at <http://www.state.ma.us/dep/dephome.htm>.

This project was undertaken in connection with the settlement of an enforcement action taken by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for violations of a statute and regulations it administers.