

Adapted from Dharma Trading Company's Safety Advisory Page

We want to be completely open and honest with you about any health hazards related to the products we use. We are not chemists so we pass on to you the information given to us by the manufacturers.

Each person has their own opinion and their own standards as to what is "safe" - we think that's just fine, and we don't interfere. We've avoided products that we think are serious threats to your health.

That being said, there are products we use that should be handled with care, and there are some good common sense rules to follow below when handling dyes and chemicals.

[Because Dharma dyes come from California: "To conform to state laws, our labels make everything sound like a deadly poison, even simple things like sawdust and seaweed. The law says you have to warn everyone about everything, regardless of how obvious, stupid or remote the possibility. You may find the same product from another supplier without any warning label at all: same product, different label. *California Proposition 65 requires that products sold in California which contain, in any amount, any chemical on what is called the "Prop 65 list" be labeled as follows: "Contains chemicals known to the State of California to cause cancer." You get that warning at the entrance to all bars in California, because alcohol is on that list. On that list are many chemicals including alcohol, cigarette smoke, copper, etc. Some products we sell bear that label because they contain alcohol. Some bear the warning because they contain trace amounts of Formaldehyde, etc.*"]

What we have found is that good common sense and housekeeping practices keep us safe from most things. In general, follow these precautions:

- Wear a mask when handling powders so you don't inhale dye. Inhaling powders and dusts of *any kind* is not good for you. Inhaling is the main way these type of things can get into your body. If you work with dyes and chemicals for a living, have allergies or chemical sensitivities, upgrade yourself to a respirator.
- Wipe up areas where you have been using powdered dyes or chemicals with a damp cloth or paper towel, to pick up any stray

powder so it won't get into or onto your stuff. Wipe up liquid spills immediately, because after they dry up, they can become airborne.

- If there is any chance of getting the dyes or chemicals in your eyes, wear protective goggles.
- Wear rubber gloves so that you don't wreck your skin or absorb stuff through your skin (though most molecules are too large to actually absorb).
- Provide adequate ventilation if fumes or powder dusts are present, preferably with an exhaust fan. You can also put a box fan in one window, pointed to the outside to suck out room air, and open another window opposite for the fresh air to come in and replace it.
- Don't use cooking or eating utensils to prepare dyes, chemicals and other craft products that are not intended for human consumption. Get a used microwave, if you are using one for your craft, to use as a dedicated microwave just for your craft.
- Keep dyes and all chemicals away from unsupervised children and pets. Colors look like food to them and there is no telling what they will do!
- Pregnant women must be particularly alert. Discuss the use of dyes and chemicals with your doctor.
- If you experience an adverse reaction from using any product, stop using it at once. Allergies and chemical sensitivities are unique to individuals and impossible to predict.
- Use your common sense and pay attention to what you are doing. Don't work when you are tired. Don't do things like opening jars of dyes or paint over your new or white carpet.

The biggest safety threat in using any craft material is to children and pets. You just can't predict what they will do, and they are not always reasonable. If you don't anticipate and prevent it, they may very well eat and drink everything in your studio.