



# THE FACTS

## Dry Drawing Media:

### Charcoal, Pastels, Crayons

**Charcoal** is a lightweight black carbon residue produced by strongly heating wood in minimal oxygen to remove all water and volatile constituents.

**Pastel** is an art medium that consist of powdered pigment and binder.

**Crayon** is a stick of pigmented wax used for writing or drawing.

### Safety:

- Use the least dusty types of pastels, chalks, and pencils.
- Switch to oil pastels or similar non-dusty media when possible.
- Do not blow off excessive pastel or charcoal dust with your mouth. Tap off the built-up dust so it falls to the floor.
- Wet-mop and wet-wipe all surfaces clean of dusts.



### Hazards:

- Provide and review safety data sheets for all chemicals used.
- Charcoal is a nuisance dust; inhalation in large amounts can create chronic lung problems through a mechanical irritation and clogging effect.
- Colored chalk is also a nuisance dust; some chalks are dustier than others.
- Pastel sticks and pencils consist of pigments bound in solid form by a resin. Inhalation of pastel dusts is the major concern.
- Blowing excessive dust-off drawing is one major source of inhalation.
- Pastels may contain toxic pigments such as chrome yellow (lead chromate) which can cause lung cancer and cadmium pigments which can cause kidney and lung damage and are suspected carcinogens.
- Both permanent and workable spray fixatives used to fix drawings contain solvents. There is high exposure through inhalation to these solvents because the products are sprayed in the air.

Occupational and Environmental Safety (OES) is a team of dedicated professionals who provide safety and compliance services to support Clemson University's core mission of research, teaching and public service. We accomplish this through collaboration and partnerships with the Clemson community and are committed to continuous improvement and exceptional customer service.

For more information on OES website: <https://www.clemson.edu/finops/oes/index.html>