



# THE FACTS

## Nonwater-based Paints

Nonwater-based Paints are paints that either are solvent or oil-based paints.

Solvent-based paints are made up liquefying agents that are meant to evaporate via a chemical reaction with oxygen.

Oil paint is a type of slow-drying paint that consists of particle of pigment suspended in a drying oil.

### Hazards:

- Solvents can cause defatting of the skin and dermatitis from prolonged or repeated exposure.
- Acute inhalation of high concentrations of mineral spirits, turpentine vapors, and other solvents can cause narcosis (which can include dizziness, headaches, drowsiness, nausea, fatigue, loss of coordination, coma, and respiratory irritation).
- Chronic inhalation of large amounts of solvents may result in decreased coordination, behavioral changes, and brain damage.
- Chronic inhalation of turpentine can cause kidney damage and respiratory irritation or allergies.
- Ingestion of turpentine or mineral spirits can be fatal.
- Epoxy paints consist of an epoxy resin component containing the pigment and a hardener component. The epoxy resin may contain diglycidyl ethers which are irritants that may cause bone marrow damage and are suspected carcinogens.



### Safety:

- Provide and review safety data sheets for all chemicals used in the dark room.
- Replace turpentine or ordinary mineral spirits with a less toxic odorless mineral spirits.
- Use a window exhaust fan to provide ventilation.
- Wear neoprene gloves when cleaning brushes with mineral spirits or turpentine.
- Remove paint from hands with baby oil, soap, then water.
- Never use your lips to point a paintbrush.
- Never eat, drink, or smoke in the studio and wash your hands before doing these activities.
- During pregnancy and nursing, switch to water-based paints.

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