

# THE FACTS



### Pigments

A **Pigment** is a powder used to add color or change visual appearance. Pigments are completely or nearly insoluble and chemically unreactive water or another medium.

#### Hazards:

- Methods of spraying, heating, or sanding may cause a potential for inhalation of toxic pigments.
- Lead and other toxic metal containing pigments are common in painting and drawing products.
- Lead pigments can cause anemia, gastrointestinal problems, peripheral nerve damage and brain damage in children, and kidney damage or reproductive system damage.
- Other inorganic pigments may be hazardous including pigments based on cobalt, cadmium, and manganese.
- Some inorganic pigments, in particular cadmium pigments, chrome yellow and zinc yellow are known or suspected human carcinogens and may cause lung cancer.
- Chromate containing pigments such as chrome yellow or zinc yellow and cobalt can cause skin irritation.



#### Safety:

- Review safety data sheets: Do not use lead-containing or carcinogenic pigments.
- Use tube paint and commercially available inks when possible. Avoid mixing dry pigments.
- If dry pigments are mixed, do so in a fume hood or glove box.
- Wet mop and wipe all surfaces when using dry pigments.
- Never put the paintbrush in your mouth.
- No eating, drinking, or smoking in the work areas, and wash hands before doing these activities.
- Avoid using dishes, containers, or utensils from the kitchen or from home to mix or store paints and pigments.

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.

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