



# THE FACTS

## Water-Based Paints

Water-Based/Latex Paints are paints that use water as the liquifying solvent for the pigments.

### Hazards:

- Acrylic Paints
  - Contain small amounts of ammonia; some people may have sensitivity and experience eye, nose, and throat irritation from ammonia.
- Acrylics and some gouaches
  - Contain a small amount of formaldehyde as a preservative. People who are already sensitized to formaldehyde may experience an allergic reaction.
- Casein paints
  - Use the protein casein as a binder. While soluble forms are available, casein can be dissolved in ammonium hydroxide which is moderately irritating through skin contact and highly irritating through eye contact, ingestion, and inhalation.



### Safety:

- Provide and review safety data sheets for all chemicals used.
- Avoid using sodium fluoride, phenol, or mercury compounds when adding preservatives to paints.
- Open a window or use an exhaust fan while using acrylic paints or when mixing casein paints that have ammonium hydroxide.
- Never use your lips to point a paintbrush fine.
- Never eat, drink, or smoke in the studio and always wash your hands before doing these activities.
- Wear gloves, goggles, and a protective apron when handling ammonia.

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