

Beware of Lead

Art Supplies

Lead is allowed in certain art supplies. Art products such as paints, metals, and glass can contain lead.



Lead and Health

Lead poisoning is extremely dangerous for adults and children. After lead gets in the body, it can cause lifelong brain damage, permanent injuries, and disabilities. There is no safe level of lead. Many people with lead poisoning don't feel sick. A blood test is the only way to know if you have high levels of lead.



Make Informed Choices

Art supplies must have warning labels if they contain lead. Check labels for warnings and ingredients on products you use. Lead is often referred to by its **chemical symbol Pb**.

- Choose art supplies labeled as **lead-free**, not lead-safe. Using lead-safe products can still expose artists to lead while creating artwork.
- Products labeled as “conforms to ASTM D4236” are safe for children to use.
- Talk to your health care provider about a blood test if you regularly use lead products.
- If the finished artwork is not food safe, label it with a permanent safety warning like this one:





Products with Lead

- Lead powders can be used to color paint, chalk, pastels, inks, textiles, and glass (white, red, orange, yellow, and black). These can come mixed in products or in powdered form.
- Flux, frit, and glaze used in ceramics, pottery, and glass
- Metals and solders (pewter, brass, and tin)
- Glass art materials and stained glass

Tasks That Put You at Risk

- Painting and printmaking with inks
- Jewelry making and creating stained glass
- Glassblowing and lampworking (shaping glass)
- Making pottery, ceramics, and sculpture
- Restoring art and refinishing furniture

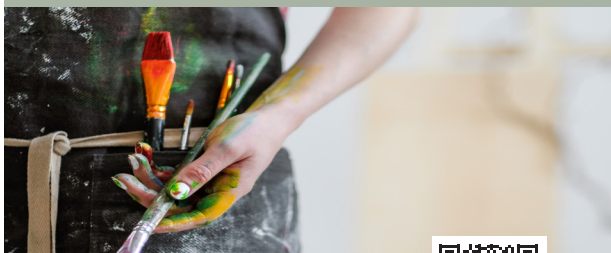


Work Safely

- Work outdoors or in areas where you can bring in fresh air from the outside.
- When using a kiln or heating products, only work in spaces with professional exhaust equipment.
- Follow product warning labels and instructions.
- Wear a tight-fitting N95 mask or respirator, and eye protection when heating, sanding, or working with powders.
- Never blow excess powders or dust into the air.
- Keep art supplies and your hands away from your face while working. Never eat, drink, or smoke in your work area.
- Wet wipe and mop your work area regularly to reduce lead dusts and powders. Do not use compressed air or dry sweeping.
- Wash your hands with soap and water after working and before eating, drinking, smoking, or applying cosmetics.

Don't track lead dust from the work area.

- Change out of your work clothes and shoes. Clean them separately from your regular clothes.
- Take a shower as soon as possible after working.



Learn More
health.ny.gov/leadsources

