

Best Practise - Health and Safety in the Studio

As glass artists we work in an environment which can contain avoidable health and safety risks. Cut risks and eye protection are clearly and easily avoidable. High exposure to any dust can cause lung damage and we need to avoid inhaling very fine particles. Particular care should be taken when using products containing 'free' Crystalline silica particles (a component of sand) and when blasting, grinding or cutting materials containing Crystalline silica (glass).

Prevent The Hazard	Protect your self	Recommended Clean-up
Ensure that you know the hazard level of the materials you are using. Avoid working in dusty environments, install mechanical ventilation, use a good cleaning regime, change from work clothes after exposure.	Avoid breathing in fine particles or spray from machines. Wear a mask when exposed to dust, we recommend using a 3M professional respirator with a PPF3, P3 or P100 filter. Wear washable work clothes, wear gloves where necessary.	Clean up using a vacuum cleaner with an efficient particulate filter, we recommend a Fein vacuum with a HEPA filter. Wipe down surfaces using a damp cloth or sponge, wash hands after use, wash work clothes regularly.

Product Name	Material Safety Description	Specific Clean-up
Thinfire Paper	Nuisance dust (irritant) after firing	Use recommendations above. Vacuum everything before removing from the kiln.
Fibre Paper	Nuisance dust (irritant)	Use recommendations above. Vacuum everything before removing from the kiln.
Glass Frit	Nuisance dust (irritant)	Use recommendations above.
Glass Powder	Nuisance dust (irritant)	Use recommendations above.
Casting Plaster	Hazardous – dry product contains free Crystalline Silica	Use recommendations above. Work in a 'Dirty' space to contain dusty activities.
Enamel	Most colours Not Hazardous Cobalt – Harmful if inhaled or ingested.	Use recommendations above. Wear gloves. Do not use Cobalt if you are/think you might be pregnant or are breastfeeding.
Glass-line Pen	Nuisance dust (irritant) only when dried	Use recommendations above if using dry. Wash hands after use.
Copper Oxide	Low Toxicity, but excessive consumption or repeated inhalation may cause irritation and symptoms like influenza.	Use recommendations above. Wear gloves.
Bullseye shelf primer	Hazardous – dry product contains free Crystalline Silica. Wet product is not hazardous.	Use recommendations above. Dampen used primer before scraping off. Work in a 'Dirty' space to contain dusty activities.
Primo Primer	Hazardous – dry product contains free Crystalline Silica. Wet product is not hazardous.	Use recommendations above. Dampen used primer before scraping off. Work in a 'Dirty' space to contain dusty activities.

This information should be considered as basic advice based on unverified information and is simply our opinion of best practice at the time of writing, helping you to be safe in the studio.

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