

Grumbacher Safe Studio ISSUE: NEW LABELS AND PROPOSITION 65

There are new labels on the Grumbacher Artists' Paints. Included on the labels is the following statement: "This product contains a chemical known to the State of California to cause cancer." This statement likely raises questions in an artist's mind. Have there been changes to the product? What is the impact on the artist who has safely used the product for years with no ill effects? Finally, are the products safe or unsafe?

The simple fact is there have been **no significant changes** in any of the artists' paints. Then why the warning statement on the products once listed as "non-toxic"? The reason for the statement is the result of a new law in the state of California.

The History

In 1998, approximately one dozen artist paint manufacturers were involved in a lawsuit with the State of California regarding Proposition 65. This Act's intent was to limit the discharging of any materials known to cause cancer no matter how insignificant the quantity. Impacted by Proposition 65 were a broad range of common household products as well as specialty products like artist's paints.

Regarding artist's paints, a board-certified toxicologist has independently evaluated all of the art products and deemed the majority of them non-toxic. All of the paints were labeled according to ASTM D-4236, a standard for labeling art materials for chronic hazards and reviewed under the Federal Labeling of Hazardous Art Materials Act (LHAMA). According to this standard, safe and proper use of hazardous materials are stated on the product, as well as any acute or chronic health hazards. Those colors that did not pose any health hazards, under normal conditions, are considered non-toxic.

Despite this independent evaluation by expert scientists, a decision was made to interpret this California Act in the strictest way possible. All manufacturers decided to save time and expense of an extremely long litigation and a settlement was reached. The settlement stated that artist's paints, which contain **any** amounts of cadmium, lead, chromium, cobalt, and nickel would be labeled with the warnings for the State of California.

Zinc oxide is used in many whites. According to recent tests, the zinc oxide may contain up to 4 parts per million of lead (0.0004% by weight) and 4 parts per million of cadmium (0.0004% by weight) as impurities. In addition, barium sulfate is used in many different colors and may contain up to 79 parts per million (0.0079% by weight) of lead as impurities. These trace amounts may not result in an exceedance of the No Significant Risk Levels for Carcinogens and Maximum Dose Levels for Chemicals Causing Reproductive Toxicity published by the California Environmental Protection Agency (see www.oehha.ca.gov).

In addition, many pigments are made from nickel, cadmium, chromium, cobalt, and lead. The products containing these pigments will also display the California Proposition 65 warning statements. However, only cadmium and lead will be specifically stated.

Since advancements in technology can detect trace elements as low as 1 part per billion (0.000001% by weight) and the settlement indicated labeling for any amount of cadmium, lead, cobalt, chromium, and nickel, the majority of Grumbacher Artists' Paints display these new warning, although there have not been any significant changes to the line of Grumbacher Artists' Paints.

Are the products dangerous?

Under normal use conditions, the Grumbacher Artists Paints are safe --- they are the same products artists have used safely for years. The ASTM D-4236 designation for the safe

and proper use of hazardous art materials will still be listed on the product. In other words, the Grumbacher line is the same product focusing on quality, consistency and concern for the user. Still an artist has a responsibility to educate himself or herself on the proper use of art materials. A responsible artist always follows safe studio practices.

How can I Protect Myself?

Prevention, planning and control are key. Control means using your art materials wisely: make sure you have good ventilation, contain or cover materials when not in use ("use it – cap it"), don't paint when you are tired. Do not have food products and beverages in your studio – do not eat, drink or smoke in your studio. Wash your hands when you are finished painting. Do not have small children or pets in your studio area. You can also wear gloves when you paint. Other proactive actions that can be taken is to isolate art materials from normal household setting, and not working long hours under stressful conditions where mistakes can occur.

Since controlling the potential risks is important, the artist needs to have an understanding of warning labels. Available to the artist are Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs), which can be obtained by visiting www.sanfordcorp.com or calling 800-323-0749. These are important tools for the artist.

Artists love the rich colors produced by such pigments like the cadmiums. Since these are some of the more hazardous pigments, when an artist uses these pigments, they can make sure they wash their hands after using and to not eat or drink in the studio.

An artist can contain potential hazards like covering their palette when they are not in their studio. Using plastic wrap over the palette when not in use will contain potential risks as well as preserve the usability of the paint. When solvents are used, cap the product immediately after use; small jars for the solvent can also be used. Rags need to be safely disposed in fire safe metal cans.

Do's and Don'ts for a Safe Studio

Do have proper ventilation in your studio.

Do get copies of MSDSs and develop an understanding of them.

Do develop a safety plan for your studio.

Do have a studio space separate from cooking and eating household duties.

Do have small containers for solvents and immediately cap the solvent after using.

Do wash your hands after using art materials.

Don't eat, drink or smoke in a studio setting.

Don't allow small children or pets near your studio unattended.

Don't work in your studio if you are tired.

Don't leave art products opened or unattended in your studio.

The same creativity you use in your paintings can be used to develop a safe studio.

GRUMBACHER Academy Oil Colors

Size	Shape	Color	Label	Labeling Definitions
1.25 oz.	tube	alizarin crimson	AP	
1.25 oz.	tube	burnt sienna	AP	
1.25 oz.	tube	burnt umber	AP	AP The AP seal is found on products that contain no materials in sufficient quantities to be toxic or injurious to humans or to cause acute or chronic health problems. Products bearing the ACMI seals are also certified to comply to ASTM D 4236 and the U. S. Labeling of Hazardous Art Materials Act (LHAMA).
1.25 oz.	tube	cadmium orange hue	CL	
1.25 oz.	tube	cadmium red light hue	AP	
1.25 oz.	tube	cadmium red medium hue	CL	
1.25 oz.	tube	cadmium yellow medium hue	CL	
1.25 oz.	tube	cadmium yellow pale hue	CL	
1.25 oz.	tube	cerulean blue hue	AP	
1.25 oz.	tube	cobalt blue hue	CL	
1.25 oz.	tube	dioxazine purple	AP	
1.25 oz.	tube	French ultramarine blue	CL	
1.25 oz.	tube	Grumbacher red	CL	CL The CL Seal is found on art materials for adults that are certified to be properly labeled for any known health risks and is accompanied by information on the safe and proper use of such materials. Products bearing any of ACMI seals are also certified to comply to ASTM D 4236 and the U. S. Labeling of Hazardous Art Materials Act (LHAMA).
1.25 oz.	tube	ivory black	AP	
1.25 oz.	tube	mars black	AP	
1.25 oz.	tube	Naples yellow hue	CL	
1.25 oz.	tube	Payne's gray	AP	
1.25 oz.	tube	permanent green light	AP	
1.25 oz.	tube	Prussian blue	AP	
1.25 oz.	tube	raw sienna	AP	
1.25 oz.	tube	raw umber	AP	
1.25 oz.	tube	sap green	CL	
1.25 oz.	tube	thalo blue	AP	
1.25 oz.	tube	thalo green blue shade	AP	
1.25 oz.	tube	thio violet	AP	
1.25 oz.	tube	titanium white	CL	
1.25 oz.	tube	viridian hue	AP	
1.25 oz.	tube	yellow ochre	AP	
1.25 oz.	tube	zinc white	CL	
1.25 oz.	tube	zinc yellow hue	CL	
5.07 oz.	tube	alizarin crimson	AP	
5.07 oz.	tube	burnt sienna	AP	
5.07 oz.	tube	burnt umber	AP	
5.07 oz.	tube	cadmium yellow pale hue	CL	
5.07 oz.	tube	cerulean blue hue	AP	
5.07 oz.	tube	dioxazine purple	AP	
5.07 oz.	tube	French ultramarine blue	CL	
5.07 oz.	tube	Grumbacher red	CL	
5.07 oz.	tube	ivory black	AP	
5.07 oz.	tube	Payne's gray	CL	
5.07 oz.	tube	raw sienna	AP	
5.07 oz.	tube	raw umber	AP	
5.07 oz.	tube	thalo green blue shade	AP	
5.07 oz.	tube	titanium white	CL	
5.07 oz.	tube	viridian hue	AP	
5.07 oz.	tube	yellow ochre	AP	
5.07 oz.	tube	zinc white	CL	
5.07 oz.	tube	zinc yellow hue	CL	