



# Acrylic Wastewater Disposal Procedure



The Narragansett Bay Commission has approved acrylic paint wash waters from clean up for inclusion into the sewer system. This policy **only** addresses acrylic-based paints. **At no time should thinners, solvents or oil-based paints be used in or near the sink areas.**

## ***Best Management***

***Practice:*** As with any chemical, utilizing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) should minimize product exposure. Skin protection and eye protection, as well as adequate ventilation, should be used as necessary to reduce personal exposure (but are not typically required during use of acrylic paints.) **Proper handling and disposal of Acrylic Paint waste, including used tubes, rags, towels, and wipes, is mandatory in all areas on campus.**

## ***Handling and Disposal Program:***

- Use only paints approved for use by your department. These are typically paints with acceptable amounts of heavy metals (Cadmium, Chromium, Lead).
- Apply only as much paint to your pallet as you reasonably expect to use during your session (it will save you money & reduce waste).
- Unused acrylic paints must be either returned to the original container, or if this is not practical then disposed of in solid form in the trash. The paint container should be cleaned and properly sealed before storing.
- Wipe excess acrylic paint from brushes using either a “red shop towel” from our towel recycle program, or a disposable wipe (paper towel/cloth rag.) Be sure to deposit the used wipe in the proper waste receptacle. All used paper towels or cloth rags must be put into the red cans for disposal.
- After brushes are wiped of excess material, they may be washed clean in the sinks available in most studios on campus. You may use a water based soap or brush conditioner if you desire. Be careful to observe the Prohibited Discharge Stickers information posted at all sinks on the RISD campus.
- Dispose the wastewater from brush rinse cups into the sinks, washing clean with an appropriate amount of fresh water.

## **DO NOT:**

- **Do not wash paint containers, towels, rags or other debris containing paints into sinks.**
- **Do not use a restroom sink to clean up or dispose of excess paint.**
- **Do not use solvents or solvent-based paints in or near the sink areas.**

*Active commitment to compliance and continual improvement in our environmental program;*

*Reduction of pollution through waste minimization, lowered materials consumption and energy conservation;*

*Training and educating faculty, students and staff about the environmental considerations of their activities, projects and products;*

*Stewardship in enhancing the quality of life for our employees, faculty, students and neighboring community.*

***RISD supports the ARTS!***

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