

Photography Lab Safety Guidelines for Lab Workers & Students

Individuals using chemicals for photo processes must wear:

- Apron
- Safety glasses or goggles, as appropriate
- Gloves: Disposable gloves or reusable gloves (lab or dish type)
- The lab also recommends:
 - Waterproof apron
 - Full length pants (or equivalent)
 - Top that covers torso and arms
 - Closed toe, closed heel shoes

Avoid these common unsafe practices:

- Looking at a container of a chemical by holding it above eye level
- Holding wet film (at any time during the development process) above eye level
- Engaging in darkroom activities without aprons, safety glasses (or goggles), and gloves
- Handling cell phones in the darkroom

- Afflicted individual must use the eyewash or safety shower for at least 15 minutes
- chemicals used in a process so that you are fully aware of the hazards and how to
- Separate potassium persulfate and other strong oxidizing agents from flammable, organic, reducing agents and even other oxidizable substances.
- Do not heat or add acid to hypochlorite bleaches, as this will generate highly toxic gases.
- Students are not allowed to bring other chemicals or photography products into the lab unless it has been approved by the instructor.

- Contact Lab manager to assist with new waste collection vessel

Photo toners and bleach can contain silver after processing prints, and they should be treated just as fixers.

Potassium Ferricyanide for Bleaching

https://www.freestylephoto.com/static/pdf/msds/formulary/Formulary_-_Potassium_Ferricyanide_-_MSDS.pdf

Hydrogen Peroxide

https://www.medline.com/media/catalog/Docs/MSDS/MSD_SDSD93901.pdf

Precautions for the Lighting Studio

- Use power strips with surge protection.
- Never daisy chain a surge protector to another one
- Extension cords are to be used only for a max of 90 days and on a temporary basis.
 - Best practice is to always disconnect items when not in use
- Use the heat proof gloves when handling the hotlight heads.
- Do not touch hotlight bulbs.
- Secure light stands with sandbags.
- Secure cables and keep them out of traffic paths.
- Do not place any gel or other diffuser directly on top of the hotlight when it is on.
- Leave enough time to cool down lighting equipment before you place it back in the case or closet.
- Do not use ladders unless you have taken the formal ladder safety training
- <https://www.csulb.edu/college-of-the-arts/safety-college-of-the-arts/school-of-art-safety-programs>
- Be aware of pinching when handling tripods and stands in the studio.
- Strobe units may cause electrical shocks. Be sure you have been properly trained in their use. Discharge the unit before unplugging it.

Precautions for the Digital Print Lab, Grad/Faculty Print Lab, and Reading Room

- Tables, chairs, and printers are on wheels. These wheels can be pinch hazards, and wheels can be crush hazards. Use caution and be always aware of your surroundings.
- Use ergonomics when working on computers or at desks to avoid body and eye strain.
- Take regular breaks from computer and desk work to avoid strain.
- Food and drink are not allowed in lab spaces and must be consumed in the in the

- Tie up long hair and ensure that jewelry or accessories do not dangle in the path of a cutting tool or heat press.

Precautions for Student Workers in the Checkout Cage