



Solvent Safety for Oil Painting

Solvents are a useful tool for oil painters, helping thin paint and clean brushes. With the right safety steps, you can create confidently while keeping your space safe.

Practices for safe solvent use

-  **Read labels & follow safety guidelines**
Different solvents, such as turpentine, mineral spirits, and citrus-based cleaners, have unique handling requirements. Always follow product label instructions. If unsure, contact the product manufacturer.
-  **Ensure good ventilation**
Open windows and use a fan. Always work with a fresh air flow to reduce exposure to vapours.
-  **Keep lids closed when not in use**
This prevents fumes from accumulating and reduces waste.
-  **Wear protective gear**
Gloves and safety glasses help prevent skin and eye irritation. Gloves should be solvent-resistant (e.g. nitrile gloves or similar).
-  **Store safely**
Keep solvents sealed, away from children, heat, flames, and direct sunlight.
-  **Dispose of solvents responsibly**
Never pour down drains or into the soil; follow local disposal regulations. Take precautions when disposing of solvent-soaked rags to avoid combustion.

Avoid when using solvents

-  **Avoid direct skin contact**
Some solvents can cause allergic reactions or irritation over time; use solvent-resistant gloves to provide protection.
-  **Don't breathe in fumes for long periods**
Extended exposure may cause dizziness, headaches, nausea or difficulty breathing. Always ensure there is a flow of fresh air. Avoid use in enclosed spaces.
-  **Never leave solvent containers open**
This increases risks of spills, vapour exposure, and can be a fire hazard.
-  **Keep solvents away from food & drink**
Avoid accidental ingestion by keeping solvents in original containers. Never put into food or drink containers.
-  **Avoid smoking or open flames near solvents**
Many solvents are flammable and should be kept away from ignition sources.

Safe art spaces = better creativity!

Choose the right solvent for the job

Research the flammability, odour, and product safety guidelines to make the best choice for your project.

Use proper storage, ventilation and disposal

Maintain a comfortable and safe environment while creating.

Handle with care

Follow all guidelines so you can create safely and with confidence.

Keep these details handy

Poisons Information Centre: 13 11 26 or dial 000 in an emergency

View our oil painting ranges at montmarte.com.au