



## ART RAGS

or paper towels can be the source of fires in art studios if not handled safely. The spontaneous combustion of these rags or towels occurs when they are wet with certain materials. When saturated rags or towels are piled, the material goes through oxidation increasing heat and, if trapped, can result in spontaneous combustion. In 1991 a studio fire in Philadelphia resulted in an 8 floor fire. The source was found to be caused by Linseed oil-soaked rags not stored for disposal correctly. Fire is an ever-present danger in art studios, especially with the spontaneous combustion nature of certain materials. Follow the below disposal information below to keep your studio safe:

### PLACE IN SEALED CONTAINER OR OIL WASTE CAN:

- Wet with turpentine
- Wet with mineral spirits
- Soaked with ANY oils

### SAFE FOR THE GENERAL TRASH:

- Dry with only mineral spirits
- Dry with non-metal containing pigments
- Dry latex, acrylic, or water based paints
- Dry cleaning materials

### WHAT TO DO!

- Never leave solvents (e.g. Acetone, Ethyl Acetate, Xylene, Toluene, etc...) to dry in the air, avoid use when possible
- Use low odor solvents and non-toxic paints
- Do not over-saturate rags or towels. Liquids are not allowed in landfills and increase the chance of fires
- Keep oil waste can lids closed
- Direct general questions to your shop technician
- Direct additional questions to EHS
- Contact EHS when the oil waste can is close to full



Safely dispose of all rags! Do not create a potential fire situation!



Place rags / towels wet with materials listed on the left in a sealed container or oil waste can (red or yellow)!



Only place dry rags and towels with the materials listed on the left in the general trash!