

Packing Your Paint for Air Travel

Artist grade oil colors are based on vegetable oil with a flash point above 550. THEY ARE NOT CONSIDERED HAZARDOUS. Pack the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) from the paint manufactured with the exact flash point info. Each manufacturer will have this information on their packaging and/or web site. You may want to include MSDS information specific to each color. I have printed and included the sheets that are specific to the paints that I regularly use.

According to Robert Gamblin of Gamblin Colors, when security asks, "What kind of paints are these?" Never say "oil paints"; say "these artists colors are made from vegetable oil and contain no solvent."

For air

travel, flammable liquids are those that have a flash point 140 degrees F. or below. If you do not know the flash point of your mediums or solvent, do not take them on the plane. Do not fly with solvents and cleaners. Purchase them at your destination or ship them beforehand by ground. If that is not a good option, you can use a baby oil gel for removing the color from your brushes. This also is a good option for cleaning your hands using the gel and paper towels. When you return home use your regular cleaning method or soap and water at night during your trip.

The most important thing about packing is to keep things to the bare minimum while keeping the weight as light as possible. Look at everything you place in your bag to make sure that it is essential. And, ask yourself, "Is there anything you can remove?". Sounds like packing for any trip, doesn't it? Now days with the weight restrictions when flying, it is even more important.

Do not take palette knives on board, check them with your luggage. I have had the experience of having them confiscated. Airport regulations change on an ongoing basis. It would be wise to go through them and check on them.

The paint can puncture each other, so when you pack them, wrap each one with a small amount of bubble wrap. I then place the tubes in a labeled plastic container.

Make sure that your solvent container is well cleaned with soap and water. You want to be sure to get rid of any residue and odor. Before you refill your container, put a plastic sandwich bag inside, then slip the metal insert inside. When you are done, you can pull out the bag, dispose of the solvent and have a solvent container that is still clean and ready for travel.

Watercolors also require MSDS information as they are no more or less hazardous than oil colors.




ARTIST COLORS ENCLOSED

The US Department of Transportation defines "flammable liquids" as those with a flash point 140 degrees F or below. Artist grade oil colors are based on vegetable oil with a flash point at or above 550 degrees F. THEY ARE NOT CONSIDERED HAZARDOUS.

If you need to confirm this, please contact TSA at 866-289-9673 or their Hazardous Materials Research Center at 800-467-4922

A SAMPLE MSDS SHEET

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET				
Manufacturer's Name: GAMBLIN ARTISTS COLORS CO. PO Box 15009 Portland, OR 97203				
Product: Alizarin Crimson Artists' Oil Color				
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SECTION I -- PRODUCT IDENTITY				
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Date updated: 8-22-07	Emergency telephone no. 503/235-1945			
Preparer's Name: R. Gamblin	HMIS Information			
Chemical name: Vegetable oil pigment mixture	Health	1		
Chemical formula: N/A (mixture)	Flammability	1		
	Reactivity	0		
DOT shipping class: Compound paint, N.O.S., Not regulated by DOT as a hazardous material.				
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SECTION II -- HAZARDOUS INGREDIENTS				
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Chemical names	CAS#	Wt%	OSHA PEL	ACGIH TLV
This product contains no hazardous materials under the current OSHA standard				
These are reportable chemicals under 40 CFR 372, SARA Title III Section 313				
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SECTION III -- PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS				
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Boiling range: N/A	Specific gravity: 1 - 1.4			
Vapor pressure: N/A	% volatile (volume): 0			
Vapor density: N/A	Evaporation rate (BuOAc = 1): N/A			
Solubility (specify solvents): Insoluble in water. Soluble in most petroleum solvents.				
Appearance and odor: Red paste; linseed oil odor.				
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SECTION IV -- FIRE & EXPLOSION DATA				
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Flash point: 620 degree F				
Extinguishing media: CO2, dry chemical, water fog				
Special firefighting procedures: water or foam may cause frothing if directed into container of burning material. Use water to cool containers exposed to heat.				
Unusual fire & explosion hazards: contaminated rags or other easily ignited organic materials are spontaneously combustible. Immerse in water after use.				
Reactivity: product is stable				
Hazardous polymerization: will not occur				
Conditions to avoid: avoid extreme heat				
Hazardous decomposition products:				
Usual products of combustion: CO, CO2 and possibly acrolein.				