

# New Jersey Art Materials Safety Guide



## Core Safety Standards

### Compliance

- Use only art supplies with the Approved Product (AP) seal from the Art and Creative Materials Institute (ACMI)

### Environmental Safety

- Ensure adequate ventilation.
- Maintain active supervision.
- Follow emergency procedures for poisoning or allergic reactions.
- Do not allow children to eat or drink during art and craft activities.

### Material Safety

- Use only safe, non-toxic materials that are free from choking hazards.
- Accept donated materials only if they meet all safety standards before use.
- Do not use unlabeled, expired, or unusable materials (such as dried-out paint or markers).
- Avoid sharp objects. Use child safety scissors for cutting activities.
- Check the Consumer Product Safety Commission recall database to ensure materials are not hazardous.

### Unsafe Material ❌

### Why It's Unsafe ⚠️

### Safe Alternative 🛡️

Unsafe Material ❌	Why It's Unsafe ⚠️	Safe Alternative 🛡️
Unlabeled materials	May contain toxins/unknown ingredients	Products with ACMI "AP" label
Lead-based paints, glazes, finishes	Contain heavy metals	Water-based paints with "AP" label
Permanent or scented markers	Toxic fumes; asthma trigger	Unscented, washable "AP" markers
Powdered tempera paint or clay	Dust irritates lungs/eyes	Pre-mixed "AP" paints, clay, or play dough
Solvent-based paints	Harmful fumes and metals	Water-based "AP" paints
Rubber cement or strong adhesives	Formaldehyde and ammonia fumes	White glue with "AP" label
Instant papier-mâché or commercial dyes	May contain lead/asbestos	Newspaper with a safe, non-toxic white paste
Glitter, small beads, uncooked food like uncooked beans	Choking hazard; toxins	Materials that cannot fit through a toilet paper tube
Spray paints, aerosols, shaving cream	Harmful inhalants	Pump bottles or foam soap
Peanut butter, nuts, tree nuts	Allergic or choking risk	Use non-food materials