

General information – Darkroom safety

- Always work with someone else in the darkroom!
- Take care to keep everything completely hygienic and wear gloves
- About the gloves:
 - They should only be worn when working with dangerous chemicals
 - If they are worn for too long, it can cause swelling and even lead to skin problems, such as eczema. Additionally, the swelling can make it easier for chemicals to be absorbed!
 - If you walk about with gloves on all day and touch everything, soon there won't be anything that CANNOT be touched without gloves! Please consider, carefully, what tasks require gloves to protect yourself and everyone else who uses LaborBerlin!
- Clothing:
 - Wear a protective smock and goggles!
 - In case of an emergency, make sure that there's always an extra set of protective gear in the closet where they are kept!
 - Please avoid wearing synthetic fibres which can, through electro-static, easily ignite. Avoid become a walking lighter!
 - Do not wear short skirts or short trousers when working in the darkroom!
 - Wear slip-proof, flat-soled, closed (no sandals) shoes.
 - Chemicals can accumulate under rings without anyone noticing. Please avoid wearing rings and other jewellery on your hands while working in the darkroom.
 - Do not wear contact lenses.
- For your personal protection
 - Wash your hands with soap and water after any activity in the darkroom that involves chemicals, frequently!
 - Since washing your hands often can make your hands dry out, even through contact with non-toxic, "harmless" substances like solvents, it is important to regularly apply hand creme to protect your hands. Rough or even cracked areas of skin decrease your ability to deal with chemicals when compared to undamaged skin. Before you start working, use the creme in the dispensers provided to prevent chemicals causing damage to your skin. When you're finished, please use a regular creme purchased in a shop.
 - Put long hair in something that keeps it out of the way! Otherwise, your hair can easily, inadvertently, end up being dipped into chemicals or even caught in mixing motors.
 - Pregnant women should not be exposed to cancer-causing, toxic chemicals that can damage reproductive organs or substances that can alter your genetic material – please take care as these can be found in the darkroom!
- Protecting yourself from chemical gases:
 - Nearly all substances that are used in organic, chemical work produce potentially toxic gases. For this reason, it is crucial to make sure that sufficient ventilation is available! Ventilate!