

GENERAL SAFETY INFORMATION FOR MODELENE AND CASTAWAY

By Jenny Dowde

Over the years there has been some concern as to the “toxicity” of polymer clays. All modern polymer clays carry the “non toxic” label because all of them **are** non-toxic. This rating is not easy to attain, and being governed by the appropriate government department, using that ‘non toxic’ rating is impossible unless permission has been granted by that department, and only after rigorous testing.

Handling

As with all plastics, indeed all art mediums, there are certain precautions one should take. Polymer clay is no exception to this rule. Some people, who are susceptible to all kinds of allergens, may find they are allergic to polymer clay during the handling process. These people will find that using gloves or applying Barrier Cream may prevent problems. If however rashes persist, then it is advisable to stop using the product and consult your doctor.

Note: Using latex gloves may also cause an allergic reaction in some people.

Hint: Using cotton inspection gloves as liners makes the wearing latex or other disposable gloves much more comfortable.

Ingesting raw or cured polymer clay, while not advisable has not been known to cause any long term effects to either humans or animals. It makes sense however, to clean your hands before eating and to supervise young children during clay sessions to ensure proper handling.

Cleaning Hands

The easiest way to clean MODELENE from hands is to use Moist Towelettes. You can also use soap and cool water, cheap moisturising cream rubbed on then washed off, or an industrial hand cleaner. Polymer clay can dry your skin so an application of hand cream may be necessary at the end of each clay session.

Baking

Modelene and **Liquid Modelene** are intended to be baked in a home oven at 130°C at which temperature no ‘fumes’ are developed. Any noticeable smell during regular baking is the genuine **Modelene** or **Liquid Modelene** smell and quiet harmless.

Fumes caused by burning (at a temperature higher than that recommended by the Manufacturer) may irritate mucous membrane. Should over baking occur, it is advised that the oven be turned off and the room ventilated thoroughly until the fumes have dissipated.

Tip: **Always** use an oven thermometer to check your oven's reliability and make sure you have adequate ventilation during the curing process.

Oily Residue Build Up in Oven

Over time, and with high usage, an oily residue may build up on the walls and door of the oven used, whether it be a toaster oven or regular home oven. This is the plasticiser in **Modelene/Liquid Modelene** in vapour form, a by-product of baking and is not harmful. If allowed to build up this residue can scorch, so wiping out the oven after each use is advisable, whether it be your regular home oven or a dedicated clay oven.

Tips:

You may use aluminium foil to completely enclose your clay pieces during baking.

You may use a double baking dish (i.e. one with fitted lid)

Or use a dedicated oven for polymer clay.

Do not use a microwave oven to bake polymer clay.

Tools & Equipment

As you begin to work with polymer clay, you will find an increasing number of kitchen utensils, such as rolling pins, baking trays, pasta rollers, garlic presses etc...will find their way to your work bench. While some people advocate that non-porous ones such as metal baking trays may be used for cooking after careful cleaning, it is far better to 'dedicate' all this equipment to your clay studio.

All the information above has been collected from various polymer clay users and manufacturers around the world, and collated by Jenny Dowde.

Please refer to the CAM Technology Safety Data sheet for more detailed information as per Industry findings and regulations.

Jenny Dowde,
175 Burke Rd, Dapto 2530
Ph: 02 4261 4728 (Int'l +61 2 4261 4728)
Email: jdesigns@tpg.com.au

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