

PAPER STUDIO FAQ, by Diana Eicher, MCAD Printshop and Paper Studio Director, 2025

WET STUDIO, M05

Q. How long can you store pulp in the Wet Studio before it needs to be rinsed, used, or gotten rid of?

- A. Pulp starts to go bad after a few days. It is best if it is used within one week. If the pulp is mouldy, you can boil it to remove the mould. If you find a student's bucket with expired pulp, please email printmakingstudio@mcad.edu with a photo of the bucket and we will contact the student and ask them to rinse or remove their pulp.

Q. What kind of fibers can I put in the beaters?

- A. Only put natural fibers in the papermaking beaters!

Yes !

- ☐ Natural plant fibers
- ☐ Linters
- ☐ Plant materials

No !

- Any found materials that are unsorted before you beat them or with metal
- Clothing (unless approved by PPB Faculty/Staff)
- Synthetic fibers like yarn

Q. How should the felts be taken care of?

- A. The felts should be brushed off after use. They need to be hung up to dry so that air can circulate around them and dry them off. When the felts are dry, please stack them in a pile and put a board on top of them to flatten them (only if they are all dry).

Q. What do I use to clean the vats?

- A. Use Softscrub and Ajax, Comet, the Pink Stuff, and a green scrubby or a sponge with a scrubby side. Then rinse the vat.

Q. When and how do I change the floor mesh?

- A. Change the floor mesh when there is enough pulp so that it is not draining or if there is standing water and it is draining slowly. Remove the current floor mesh, shake it out in the trash, brush off stubborn fiber with scrub brush and then replace with a new floor mesh and leave the old one to dry on the clips right above it.

Q. What do I do with the boards in the paper press in the Wet Studio?

- A. After the paper press is done being used, check to make sure all the boards are removed. If there are any boards still in the paper press, remove them and stack them up so they can dry. If you can leave space in between the boards, or spread them out a little, they will dry better over time.

Q. Where is the plastic for the vacuum table? What if I need more of it?

- A. There should be a piece in the Wet Studio by where the mesh hangs to dry. Extra plastic for the vacuum table is kept in a long cardboard tube in M01. If you need more of it, please remove the plastic from the tube and put it on the big white table and cut a piece of it. The plastic for the vacuum table needs to not have any holes in it and be large enough to cover the edges of the table. When you are done with the plastic, put it where the mesh hangs to dry.

Q. What do I do if I can't clean the pulp out of my mesh if it's really stuck on there?

- A. Printshop staff have a method of cleaning the mesh using lye. However, it takes some specific handling so we will clean it for you. Just email printmakingstudio@mcad.edu if you are struggling to get the mesh clean.

Q. How do I clean up dried pulp on the floor?

- A. Use the hose and spray off the pulp, then use a broom and squeegee it and push it towards the drain; think of the push broom as a giant scrub brush. Change the drain trap a few times.

Q. How do I take care of the white sink?

- A. Make sure that there is always a mesh drain trap in there so the sink does not get clogged.

Q. Do the floor fans get turned off or left on?

- A. The floor fans get left on all the time. They are effective for drying out the studio and preventing mould and standing water. They can also be angled to help speed up the flow of water to the floor drain.

Q. How should I clean the Paper Studio?

- A. Use the Paper Studio checklist and fill it out and write down any questions. Return to Diana or Charlie.

DRY STUDIO, M01

Q. How do I unload the restraint dryer in M01?

- A. Use the pulley and pull it up and remove the cardboard. Then undo the cardboard, pellow, and blotters and put them back on the shelves. Leave any dried paper on the white table or if you can find the flat file for the student, put it in their flat file. Paper from PPBT is taken to Diana's office and stored there for faculty to pick up.

Q. How do I load the restraint dryer?

- A. There is a diagram on the column by the white table near the restraint dryer. Please follow the instruction on there as to how to load the dryer with cardboard, pellow and blotters. This needs to be followed carefully so that the paper can dry properly. If you are working with students new to papermaking, please make sure they follow this format so the paper dries. If you need more cardboard, you can find it above on the shelves near the Paper Studio office.

Q. I need more supplies—where do I get them? Formation aid, retention aid, pigments, dyes, fiber for PPBT, etc.

- A. All of these supplies are kept in the Paper Studio office. The key is located in the cabinet on the far wall that can be opened with the Printshop cabinet key. Please return it when you are done so others can use the key!

Q. What other cleaning needs to be done in the Dry Studio?

- A. The surfaces need to be cleaned with windex and a rag. It gets very dusty as well. We are in the process of buying a backpack vacuum so the room can be cleaned more. The white tables needs to be cleaned too. Vacuum and put things away. Clean the laminated cards with rubbing alcohol and a rag.

Q. Where do I get more pellow?Floor mesh? Blotters?

- A. These supplies are kept in the Paper Studio office. There are fabric scissors so the pellow can be cut down using them. There are blotters in the flat file to the right of the cabinet where the office key is located.

General Questions:

Q. Who do I contact if I need more formation aid, retention aid, pigments or dyes restocked, or if a piece of equipment is not working?

- A. Please email printmakingstudio@mcad.edu and put your issue in the subject line and email us your request and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Q. Who do I contact for more soap, or papertowels or to have the trash emptied?

- A. Email custodian@mcad.edu and copy printmakingstudio@mcad.edu on this email so we are aware of the issue/problem.

Q. What do I do if the sink is clogged, the floor drain is clogged, etc?

- A. Fill out a work order by scanning the QR code that is by the white sink. This will lead you to fill out a form and it will get sent to Facilities.