

3D Shop Safety Information

Fabrication shops can be intimidating spaces. They are filled with large, mysterious machinery, are often noisy, and can just generally feel unwelcoming. They are also however, powerful spaces filled with possibility. We try to vibrate toward that latter sentiment. By keeping safety measures in mind and relying on shop staff as guides, you should feel empowered, excited, and safe to venture into new processes, learn a myriad of technical skills, and feel supported in your work exploring the third dimension!

With that in mind, here are some of our safety rules and reasoning. And remember, always feel free to ask questions of shop staff regarding safety. There are absolutely no stupid questions.

General guidelines regarding equipment and attire:

-Always wear safety glasses in the shop (to protect your eyes, duh!). Make sure your safety glasses fit your face and, if you wear glasses, fit fully over your glasses. You can buy a few styles in the Art Cellar that best fit your needs.

-Always wear closed toed shoes in the shop. There are all kinds of material remnants floating around the shop (some of them sharp!), and generally at least a few heavy objects (say, a 2x4) that could drop on your toes or get in your sandals. It's not only safest, but most efficient and comfortable to wear closed-toed shoes in the shop. We require this of all shop users.

-Leave your food and drink *outside* the shop. We don't allow any food or drink in the shop. This is both to keep the machinery safe from spills, and to keep you safe from material contaminants getting in your food (a sprinkle of fiberglass dust is not delicious). Take lots of breaks for food and drink, just do so elsewhere.

-Long hair must be tied back. The shop is full of a lot of moving parts, keeping your hair tied back not only makes it easier to see what you are working on, it also makes sure it doesn't get stuck anywhere it doesn't belong. This includes long bangs and long pony-tails, tied back and secured against your head.

-Head coverings, like a hijab, must be a shop-approved style and material. We need to make sure there are no loose ends on scarves that could get caught in a machine and synthetic materials can be dangerous in the shop because they are highly flammable. If you wear a headcovering while working, come see the shop staff to make sure it's safe first.

-No dangling jewelry, flowing clothing, lanyards, or other loose ends. Again, so many moving parts! Shop users need to keep clothing and accessories close to the body for safety and efficiency.

-Put your headphones, telephone, computer, and other devices *away* while using the shop. It's important to stay mentally present in such a dynamic space. Being distracted, even just by the buzz of your phone in your pocket, is dangerous.

-Use extra protections as needed. Things like hearing protection, heavy boots, or masks may be required (or strongly advised) for certain processes. Keep attune to the specific needs of the tools you are using and your comfort. If in doubt, ask!

-Wear natural fiber pants and long sleeves in the metals end. When using equipment in the metals area of the shop, you are required to wear full length pants made of a heavy natural fiber (denim, canvas, cotton). This is to protect your skin from sparks and metal shavings. Synthetic fibers, thin fabrics (like leggings), and frayed/holy jeans are highly flammable and not safe for welding, grinding, and other metals end processes.

-Pay attention to posted signage, shop guidance, faculty instruction, and the movements of your peers. Again, the shop is a dynamic and exciting space with a lot going on. It's important to stay engaged, listen, and ask questions frequently. Don't be offended if we remind you of a safety precaution, shop staff are here to make the space welcoming, safe, and productive for all of the MCAD community.

-Shop Staff have final say in safety procedures within the 3D Shop. This can depend on skill level of the student or other events going on and can vary by day. Any failure to follow shop staff's guidance may result in your removal from the 3D Shop.

For more information regarding safety in the shop, ask staff, send an email, or check out the SDS records (link on webpage) for the equipment in the shop.

We look forward to seeing you in the shop!