



Education

Department of **Education** (<https://det.qld.gov.au>)

Leatherwork

Guideline review date: July 2018

The CARA planner (DOC, 423KB) (<http://ppr.det.qld.gov.au/education/management/Procedure%20Attachments/Managing%20Risks%20in%20School%20Curriculum%20Activities/Curriculum%20Activity%20Risk%20Planner.DOC>) must be used in conjunction with this guideline to determine additional risk hazards and controls within school-specific circumstances.

Activity scope

This guideline relates to student participation in leatherwork as a curriculum activity.

Leatherwork may involve other activities that have various risk levels. Refer to the relevant activity guideline (</curriculum/school-curriculum/CARA/activity-guidelines>) (e.g. Industrial Technology and Design (ITD) activity, jewellery) for mandatory requirements associated with these activities.

For activities beyond the scope of this activity a separate risk assessment must be undertaken using the CARA generic template (</curriculum/school-curriculum/CARA>).

Low risk: Stamping, moulding or punching of leather, using stamping tools on either natural or pre-dyed leather.

Medium risk: Dyeing, stitching, burning and cutting leather.

All requirements are necessary for the activity to be conducted.

Mandatory requirements

- Follow the Electrical safety guidelines (*/initiatives-and-strategies/health-and-well-being/workplaces/safety/hazards*).
- Establish and implement procedures appropriate to the activity, location and conditions. This must include, but is not limited to: safety; emergencies (e.g. injury, first aid including eyewash facilities available when solvents and toxic pigments are used); resuscitation; communication (e.g. assistance, emergency services, parent notification) and supervision.
- Induct students on procedures for emergency, safety procedures (e.g. using hammers, mallets) and correct technique (e.g. using propane torches).

Supervision requirements

- Provide sufficient adult supervision to manage the activity safely (including emergency situations). Consider age, size, ability and maturity of students in this decision. Principals make decisions about the supervision requirements.
- Ensure ready access to a first aid officer, with current first aid qualifications including CPR.

Qualifications for supervisors

- A registered teacher with competence (knowledge and skills) in leatherwork.

or

- An adult supervisor with competence (knowledge and skills) and current experience in leatherwork, working under the direct supervision of a registered teacher.

Requirements for facilities and equipment

- Provide a well-ventilated area, with adequate lighting and work space available for students to use equipment safely.
- Establish safety zones so that students involved in potentially hazardous processes (e.g. mechanically stitching, cutting and dyeing leather) have an adequate work area that other students not involved in the process will not enter.
- If using hazardous chemicals, the Chemical hazards in the curriculum template (DOCX, 295KB) ([/curriculum/Documents/chemical-hazards-curriculum-template.docx](#)) must be completed and attached to this risk assessment.
Note: Where the risk level of a hazardous chemical is extreme, an alternative chemical/activity must be found.
- Personal protective equipment (e.g. closed-in footwear) must be worn to protect from chemicals and falling tools.
- Ensure a managing a practical ITD workspace ([/initiatives-and-strategies/health-and-wellbeing/workplaces/safety/managing/industrial-technology-design](#)) document has been completed if using a practical workshop for this activity.
- Restrict the use of an ignited propane torch to a particular work area and do not move the torch under any circumstances.
- Take the following safety precautions when contact adhesive is used:
 - use with great care and in a well-ventilated area
 - store in a flammables storage cupboard away from student contact
 - use disposable applicator (to avoid the use of a solvent to clean brushes)
 - use only when a particularly strong bond is required. Water-based contact adhesive is safer
 - avoid contact with heat, sparks and all sources of ignition.

Hazards and controls

If any listed control measure below cannot be met:

- modify the activity (or elements of it)

and/or

- identify and implement alternative control measures to meet or exceed the level of safety.

Alternative or additional considerations, hazards and control measures must be included in the planning process.

Accessing facilities and using equipment	<p>Keep all cutting tools sharp, well maintained and stored in a safe manner</p> <p>Leather activities should be conducted in an area fit for purpose</p> <p>The floor should not be highly polished or slippery</p> <p>Liquid dyes with an ethyl-alcohol base are safer than powder dyes. As an alternative, water-based leather dyes may be used. For non-functional work, pigmented airbrush inks are suitable</p> <p>Do not heat or cool materials quickly</p> <p>Ensure that leather to be heated is not chrome-tanned, as poisonous fumes will result</p> <p>When applying heat to leather using a propane torch, the leather must be placed on a heat-resistant material and water should be kept close at hand to extinguish any ignited leather</p> <p>Do not use solvent-based dyes and lacquers near naked flames or hot objects</p> <p>Only use contact adhesive when a particularly strong bond is required. Use a disposable applicator, to avoid the use of a solvent to clean brushes, water-based contact adhesive is safer and avoid contact with heat, sparks and all sources of ignition</p> <p>Make clean-up equipment available (e.g. broom, dustpan and brush)</p> <p>Label all chemicals and dyes and store in appropriate unbreakable sealed containers in accordance with manufacturers' instructions</p>
Managing student	

considerations	Maintain close supervision of students when using propane torches, scissors, cutting knives and hammers, and of inhaling adhesive fumes in a leather-work area Wash hands immediately after the activity. It is recommended students wash their face after sanding leather
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Additional links

- Queensland Government waste and chemical disposal (<https://www.qld.gov.au/environment/pollution/disposal>)
- Kidsafe burns fact sheet (PDF, 409KB) (<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a70178a4c326d908fa4f3ed/t/5b4c39811ae6cf6f422a881b/1531722119233/Factsheet+burns+final.pdf>)

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