

THE GLIDDEN COMPANY

1396 UNION COMMERCE BUILDING

P. E. SPRAGUE
VICE PRESIDENT

CLEVELAND 14, OHIO

June 13, 1949
(Dict. 6-10)

U.S. Department of Labor,
Children's Bureau,
Washington, 25, D.C.

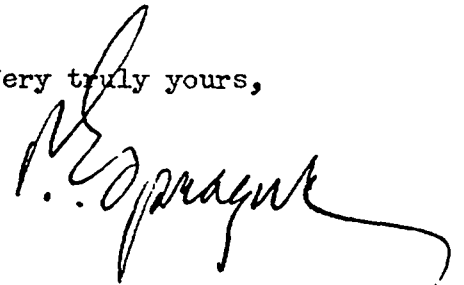
Gentlemen:

Our attention has recently been called to an alleged communication from your Department in December, 1945, as per copy which is attached, and we are writing to inquire if this is a correct copy of such a communication and if so, on what basis there is included in the list of paints on page 2 thereof the terms "Cadmium Red" and "Cadmium Yellow." As we interpret it, the intent of this is ^{to} promulgate the unqualified statement that paints containing either of these two materials "are poisonous."

In the event the attached copy is incorrect, would you supply copy of whatever communication there was made by your Department on this subject matter.

Will look forward with interest to your reply,

Very truly yours,



PES:Q

GLIDDEN
Manufacturers of Paints and Varnishes

N 3602

PAINTS, PIGMENTS, AND DYES 1/

Some paints when swallowed are poisonous and since children are apt to put their fingers or toys in their mouths or to get paint on their hands, thought should be given to providing paints that are harmless.

Commercial Paints

Water-color paints — Water-color paints — powdered, liquid, or cake — that are prepared especially for children's use can be used on a paper. Some artists' paints, however, contain lead and must not be given to children to play with.

Oil paints — Oil paints are made in better grades than food and house water-color paints. Oil paints contain oils and solvents. To get oil paints, children and their mothers must look for the word "oil" on the label. Oil paints are more poisonous than the water-color paints and if a child gets some paint into his mouth from a finger or a toy, or even from his hand, the finger should be cleaned with soap. There are many different colors and brands. Parents should learn the names of these paints and any other by name.

Oil paint consists of a pigment and a coloring — and a binder — with the pigment dissolved or suspended. When oil paint is drying, sometimes vapors are given off. These vapors are irritating to sensitive people. For this reason, children should be kept away from paint when it is drying. In fact, there are many painted things, such as houses, or fences, or cars. Since some paint chemicals may be poisonous, close application to these should be avoided. For example, paint should not be used on a concrete railing for a long enough time to be harmful.

Some pigments used in paint are poisonous when swallowed. These are harmful. They are picked off a lamp, a toy, or from painted toys or furnishings.

Many paint manufacturers claim the toxicity of their paint. A number of States require such a statement by law. Therefore, the label may usually give the information from which the poisonous paint can be distinguished. Some of the names used, unfortunately, however, are very similar to the names of harmless paint. Unfortunately, however, the names used by the paint makers are not always readily understood by the public. Paint that contains any lead is poisonous and should be avoided. Some pigments in which one word, lead, does not appear are also poisonous.

The following lists contain the names of the most commonly used pigments. A list of names of pigments and these paint can be given in most paint stores. If a paint ordered to you in a store is not on this list, it is not safe to take the word of the salesman as to whether it is harmless or not because he may not know.

1/ This information has been checked and approved by the National Bureau of Standards and the National Institute of Health.

Paints usually considered harmless

White paint

Aluminum and potassium silicate
or mica
Aluminum silicate on china clay
Barium sulphate or barite
Calcium sulphate or gypsum
Lansdowne
Calcium sulphate or gypsum
Silicofluoride
Magnesium silicate or kiesel
Silic
Titanium barium
Titanium silicate
Titanium silicate
Titanium magnesium
Titanium silicate
Zinc sulphate or gypsum
Zinc sulphate or gypsum
Zinc sulphate or gypsum
Zinc oxide
Zinc oxide

Red paint

Chlorinated lime
Iron oxide, red
Lead, white
Lead, red
Lead, white

Yellow paint

Lead, white
Iron oxide, yellow

Green paint

Lead, white
Lead, white

Blue paint

Lead, white
Lead, white
Lead, white

Paints that are poisonous

White paint

Basic lead carbonate
Basic lead sulphate
Lead titanate
Antimony oxide

Red paint

Mercuric red
Mercuric red
Mercuric red
Mercuric red

Yellow paint

Mercuric yellow
Mercuric yellow
Mercuric yellow

Green paint

Mercuric green
Mercuric green
Mercuric green

Blue paint

Mercuric blue
Mercuric blue
Mercuric blue

Orange paint

Mercuric orange
Mercuric orange
Mercuric orange