



Letterpress Safety Quick Guide

There are several important hazards to keep in mind while you operate the bookbeetle press. In addition to these, you need to follow all guidelines laid out in the SIIL Maker Studio safety training you completed on Canvas, and you should follow all guidance from the Maker Studio staff and ambassadors.

Safety Concerns

There are several important hazards to keep in mind while you operate the bookbeetle press:

- **Mess hazard** – using the letterpress can be messy, including getting ink on your skin and clothes. Be sure you are wearing an apron or smock, and it is recommended you wear a shirt and pants that you are okay getting dirty.
- **Crush hazard** – wear close-toed shoes in case you drop any of the letterpress equipment. Keep your hands clear of the platen when you are making an impression. If you use objects like the rubber mallet or arrange pieces during lockup, be sure that you do not hit your fingers and are not trying to lock the press up so tight you cause it to buckle.
- **Toxicity hazard** – several aspects of letterpress printing are hazardous if ingested, specifically the lead in the type, the chemicals in the typewash, and the chemicals in the ink. Always wash your hands thoroughly with soap when you are done handling the type and press; it is recommended you use our Gojo pumice soap. You should use gloves and protective eye wear when handling the typewash and rags and put all dirty rags into the appropriate bucket to be washed. Similarly to materials like rubber cement, typewash and ink can be hazardous if ingested or if fumes are inhaled. Use only as much as you need and avoid deliberately inhaling the fumes.
- **Fire hazard** – the chemicals in the typewash are flammable. Follow safety procedures on the package, including keeping it away from live sparks and open flames.
- **Cut hazard** – using cutting tools like the lead cutter, scissors, the paper cutter, or the x-acto knife can result in injury if not handled according to design. Be careful to keep your fingers and other body parts away from the blades of the scissors, lead cutter, and paper cutter as you operate them. Do not run with sharp objects, and when you pass them to another person do so with care not to offer them the blade. For the x-acto knife, always cut on a safe surface like the cutting mats and do not put your hands or other body parts within the path of the knife.

If Injured

Immediately remove yourself from the area and attend to the injury. Use the first-aid equipment, and if necessary contact the Maker Studio or library staff for more assistance. Do not return to the letterpress area and resume work without thoroughly cleaning and bandaging the wound and checking the area and equipment. Everything should be cleaned before work continues.



**Letterpress Safety
Acknowledgement**

This certifies that I have carefully paid attention the letterpress safety demonstration and have reviewed the details of the Letterpress Safety Quick Guide. I understand my obligations to keep myself, others, and the equipment safe, and I will be a good citizen of the Maker Studio.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____



**Letterpress Safety
Acknowledgement**

This certifies that I have carefully paid attention the letterpress safety demonstration and have reviewed the details of the Letterpress Safety Quick Guide. I understand my obligations to keep myself, others, and the equipment safe, and I will be a good citizen of the Maker Studio.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____