

LEAD SAFETY:

Lead Safety is important to all who work with stained glass. We want you to know that your window doesn't pose a significant threat as long as you:

1. Don't allow food to come in contact with your stained glass. Don't use a window as a serving tray.
2. Don't give a suncatcher to a baby. The glass may be cute, but you don't want your baby sucking on lead and getting lead into their system.
3. When working with lead, don't eat or smoke. And wash your hands well after soldering a window. It's important that as you solder your window, you be aware that lead can be harmful. Many artists (especially painters who worked with lead based paints) got lead poisoning by accidentally putting their brushes or hands to their mouths while painting. The risk to you is minimal unless you devote a lifetime to stained glass work. Being aware of the risk will keep you from rubbing your mouth while working with lead. Some of our students wear a dust mask while soldering to keep from breathing fumes as they solder. This isn't mandatory but it does keep you from putting your hands to your mouth. After soldering or polishing a project make sure to wash your hands and face well, two times. This will reduce your risk.

"Lead soldering usually does not represent an inhalation risk since controlling temperature of lead below 900 °F (melting temperature = 621 °F) is effective in controlling lead fuming."

From www.osha-slc.gov/SLTC/Lead/index.html

"Occupational exposure to lead is dependent not only upon the concentrations of lead in workplace air but also upon the personal hygiene and personal habits of the worker." "The lead hazard is particularly acute in small companies/operations, often employing no more than three or four workers, engaged in radiator repair, leaded or stained glass production, laboratories, or ceramics." (ACGIH)