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Caligo Safe Wash ETCHING INKS

Oil-based Etching inks that can be
cleaned up with just soap and water !

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Caligo Safe Wash Etching Inks 2008

Inks for Fine Art Printmakers

Caligo Safe Wash ETCHING INKS

Applications: all types of intaglio printing (eg. etching, aquatint, engraving, mezzotint carborundum etc.)

Product Information

Caligo Safe Wash Etching inks can be washed away safely with soap and water, without the need for harmful and expensive solvents. However, **Caligo Safe Wash Etching** inks are **oil-based** and will therefore handle and print like traditional oil printing inks.



These inks are lightfast (Blue Wool Scale 6 or higher) and contain a high pigment loading. You may control the strength and transparency of your colours by adding **Caligo Safe Wash Etching Extender (WTC 83840)**. The Safe Wash Etching colours are made from single pigments and you can create new colours by mixing with any ink from the Safe Wash Etching range.

Wiping

Caligo Safe Wash Etching Inks are made with oil which means they are stiffer when cold and softer when warm (eg when heated on a hot plate) These inks have a relatively stiff consistency and can be wiped like traditional oil-based inks. (eg. tarlatan followed by a hand or paper wipe.)

If you need to soften or loosen your ink, you can also add a little **Caligo Safe Wash Oil (WTC 83948)**

If you need to make wiping a little easier, add a small amount of **Caligo Easy Wipe Compound WTC 83756**

If you need to make your ink stiffer, you can add talc or magnesium carbonate)

Printing

Caligo Safe Wash Etching inks are suitable for printing on dry or damp paper. However, as these inks are designed to break down (emulsify) in soap and water, we recommend that you print on lightly damped paper and avoid over damping your paper. Always blot away any excess water from your paper. You can also print on dry paper. When the ink has dried*, you can re-soak the paper and print again. It is important that you wait until your print is completely dry before you re-damp the paper. Try to avoid touching the image while wet. Plates that contain a lot of ink will take longer to dry. (e.g. A deeply etched plate)

*Ink Drying

Caligo Safe Wash Etching Inks are made without driers. They dry in the same way as traditional oil-based inks. For the best drying conditions we recommend you always use paper that is acid-free and let your prints to dry in a warm, dry environment. If you wish to speed up the natural drying process, you can add up to 1 % metallic driers to your ink. (eg. liquid cobalt or manganese driers)

Ink Removal/ Wash Up

Caligo Safe Wash Etching inks are designed to wash away with soap and water without the need for solvents. We recommend that you use a **liquid hand soap**.

For good results, we recommend the following step -by -step instructions given below:

1. Use a clean, stiff **paintbrush** and apply a generous layer of **liquid soap / detergent** or **laundry liquid** to the inky surfaces. Use the brush or soft paper towel to gently but thoroughly work the soap into the ink. You will see the ink break down and emulsify as you mix it with the liquid soap.
2. Wash the soap-ink mixture away under warm water using the brush to help lift away the ink from all surfaces. Or, you can use a paper towel or damp sponge to wipe away and gently remove the ink-soap mixture from the surfaces. If any ink remains, dry the surface, apply more liquid soap with a soft paper towel and then wash away with more water. For best results, always apply the liquid **soap first** and **before** you add any water as water alone can cause some inks to stick to the surfaces. Apply the principle 'soap before water'
3. After rinsing, carefully and thoroughly dry your plates, tools and other surfaces before final storage or before further printing. Paper towels work well.

Ink Storage : All oil-based Inks will eventually dry and form a skin when exposed to the air. To stop your ink from drying and forming a skin in the tin, always make sure you remove any pockets of air in the ink and always cover and carefully seal the exposed surfaces of the ink with the paper disc. Replace the lid securely. If your ink is in a tube, make sure you always replace the lid !

CALIGO SAFE-WASH ETCHING INKS: Inks and Ink Modifiers Colours and Properties



Colour	Product Code/ Name	BWS Lightfast Rating	Pigment Content	Pigment Family /Origin	Opacity
	BK 1943 Safe Wash Etch Carbon Black	8	PBk 7	Furnace Carbon Black/ Inorganic synthetic	Opaque
	BK 1944 Safe Wash Etch Brown Black	8	PBk 7 PBr 7	Furnace Carbon Black Inorganic synthetic	Opaque
	BK 1945 Safe Wash Etch Blue Black	8	PBk 7 PB 27	Furnace Carbon Black Inorganic synthetic	Opaque
	VL 71204 Safe Wash Etch Carbazole Violet	7	PV 23	Dioxazine Violet Organic Synthetic	Semi-transparent
	BL 24914 Safe Wash Etch Ultramarine	7	PB 29	Ultramarine Inorganic synthetic	Transparent
	BL 24915 Safe Wash Etch Prussian Blue	7	PB 27	Iron Blue Inorganic synthetic	Semi Transparent
	BR 32284 Safe Wash Etch Sepia	8	PBk 7 PBr 7	Mixed Natural Earths	Semi Opaque
	GR 43171 Safe Wash Etch Phthalo Green	7	PG 7	Phthalocyanine Organic Synthetic	Transparent
	RD 63599 Safe Wash Etch Naphthol Red	6	PR 112	Naphthol Red Organic Synthetic	Transparent
	RD 63602 Safe Wash Etch Rubine Red	6	PR 57:1	Lithol Rubine 4B Organic Synthetic	Semi Transparent
	YL 91780 Safe Wash Etch Diarylide Yellow	7	PY 13	Diarylide Organic Synthetic	Semi Transparent
	YL 91782 Safe Wash Etch Yellow Ochre	8	PY 42	Yellow Iron Oxide Inorganic Earth Synthetic	Opaque
	WT 83838 Safe Wash Etch Opaque White	N/a	PW 6	Titanium Dioxide Inorganic synthetic	Opaque
	WT 83840 Safe Wash Etch Extender	N/a	PW 18	Calcium Carbonate Inorganic	Transparent
<p>Process Colours Our Process colours can be used in several ways: PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Mix the three colours in varying proportions to create a spectrum of bright colour mixes of your own. You will find you can make a much wider range of greens, purples, blues, reds and oranges than you can achieve with a standard blue, red and yellow ink. Use white and black and extender to make an even wider range of tints and shades. Over printing layers of these inks to create new colours where the transparent coloured layers overlap. These are ready made for printmakers who need a four colour process set (CMYK) to create colour etchings with multiple plates. For the Black, use Caligo Safe Wash ETCHING Carbon Black BKC 1943 					
	BL 24911 Safe Wash Etch Process Blue (Cyan)	7	PB 15.3	Beta Phthalocyanine Organic Synthetic	Transparent
	RD 63601 Safe Wash Etch Process Red (Magenta)	7	PV 19	Quinacrodione Red Synthetic Organic	Transparent
	YL 91779 Safe Wash Etch Process Yellow	6-7	PY 3	Arylide (Hansa) Organic Synthetic	Semi Transparent
WTC 83948	Caligo Safe Wash Etching Oil	<p>Designed for use with Caligo Safe Wash Inks. Add a little Safe Wash Etching Oil to dilute any inks from the Safe Wash Etching range.</p>			
WTC 83756	Caligo 'Easy Wipe' Compound	<p>Designed for use with any oil-based etching ink. Add a little Caligo 'easy wipe' to any Caligo Safe Wash etching ink if you want to make wiping a little easier. Also useful as a tack reducer for oil-based relief inks</p>			

What are Caligo Safe Wash Etching Inks ?

Caligo Safe Wash etching inks are **oil-based** etching inks that can be cleaned up with soap and water. No solvents are required. Because they are made with oil, they work and feel like traditional oil-based etching inks.

Are they Safe To Use?

Caligo Safe Wash Etching inks carry the **AP Approved Product Seal** of the Art and Creative Materials Institute. This seal means that these inks have been tested to show they contain no materials in sufficient quantities to be toxic or injurious to humans or to cause acute or chronic health problems.



Can I mix the inks and will the colours stay bright?

The inks are made from single pigments and so the colours you mix will be bright and clean. You can create new colours by mixing the inks with any other ink from the Safe Wash Etching range. See website for further ideas.

Are they Lightfast ?

At full strength, all the inks have a lightfast rating of at least 6 on the Blue Wool Scale. Please see the chart for details on individual colours.

How do I modify Caligo Safe Wash inks? Do I need to use any special Modifiers ?

- **Transparency and Strength**

To increase transparency and reduce strength, add **WTC 83840 Caligo Safe Wash Extender** (it will also make the inks a little softer) Our inks are very strong and so you can add extender to create a wide range of shades from each basic colour.

- **Consistency**

To thin your ink, add a little **WTCI 83948 Caligo Safe Wash Oil**. Please note that adding 'traditional' oil-based inks or 'traditional' oils will change the construction of the ink and it may then lose its ability to be cleaned easily with soap and water alone.

As they are oil-based, Safe Wash inks will be stiffer when they are cold and looser when they are warm (eg. on a hot plate) or after working with a knife on the slab.

To make the inks a little stiffer, add traditional 'whiting' (magnesium carbonate or Talc).

- **Drying Time**

To speed up drying time, add traditional liquid metallic driers (like cobalt or manganese) A thick layer of ink will take longer to dry than a thin layer of ink.

NOTE: The inks are made without driers . As they are oil-based, they dry like traditional etching inks (i.e. by a process of oxidation and polymerisation.) For efficient natural drying: always use acid-free paper and allow the prints to dry in a warm, dry atmosphere. If you want to speed up the natural drying time, you can add traditional driers to these inks – up to 1 % should be sufficient.

(Safety Note: Please follow the manufacturers guidelines on the safe use of driers.)

- **Wiping**

The inks can be wiped like oil-based inks eg. you can use a tarlatan, you can paper-wipe and you can finish with a hand-wipe as required.

To make wiping easier, add a little **Caligo 'Easy Wipe' WTC 83756** (or tack reducer)

Can I print on wet or dry paper ?

You can print on lightly dampened or dry paper. Always blot the paper thoroughly making sure there is no surface water left on the paper. The inks are designed to break down in water and so it is important not to over damp the paper. Some experimentation will be required depending on the type of paper, damping technique, and print pressure, amount of plate tone etc.

Can I over print ?

Once the print is dry, you may re-damp the paper and print again. However, it is important to wait until the print is completely dry. Plates that contain a lot of ink will take longer to dry. You may need to add driers to speed up the drying time.

How do I clean up?

We recommend you clean up using a **liquid hand soap / detergent**. We have found that most brands are suitable. A good way of applying the soap is with a clean stiff brush or by gently working in the soap with a paper towel/soft cloth. As you work the soap into the inky surface you will see the ink break down and emulsify. Wipe the ink-soap mixture away with a damp sponge or a paper towel. Finally rinse all surfaces with water and carefully dry before storage. (Water alone may sometimes cause some inks to stick to the surface - if any ink remains, dry the surface and apply more soap as above. A useful rule to follow is 'soap before water' !!

Any Questions or Comments?

And finally – please email us directly with any questions and comments about Caligo Safe Wash Etching Inks. We're really keen to hear what you think and we will be very happy to reply by email: info@caligoinks.com