SOUTH BANK COLLEGES

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Fiona Morey
Executive Principal

Dear Student,

I have been advised to share some important information regarding static electricity and material safety data sheets when using substances as part of an activity.

With regards to static electricity, this is an imbalance of electric charges within or on the surface of a material. The charge remains until it is able to move away either by an electric current or electrical discharge. A static charge can be created when two surfaces contact or slide against each other and then separate. This can cause sparks or possibly a shock which you might have experienced before.

This could be especially hazardous when handling flammable substances used for a variety of learning activities.

In order to avoid a buildup of static energy, you can take steps such as ensuring that windows are open, using a humidifier or use an antistatic bag or strap. This is particularly important if you are working with semiconductor devices such as in electronics or computers. If you are working in construction, science or electrical, you may be required to have antistatic safety boots. It is important that you do so as they protect against a buildup of static charge due to contact with the floor.

Yours faithfully

Wayne Wright
Principal, London South Bank Technical College