



Utrecht Art Supplies
Studio Craft: MFFT

"I turn down the heat in my studio at night. What is the lowest temperature that is safe for my paintings? I paint in acrylics."



For most acrylics the **minimum film forming temperature** (MFFT) is 50 degrees F. The MFFT is the lowest temperature at which acrylic dispersion paint (artist's acrylics) will form a durable, coherent film. Below this temperature, the microparticles of acrylic resin in the paint, medium or primer can't adhere to each other or a painting support.

All acrylic dispersion products can be affected by application at low temperatures, including paints, mediums and gesso.



The first 24-48 hours after application are the most critical in terms of temperature. Even after drying to the touch, acrylics continue to coalesce to full strength. If not kept above the MFFT the result can be a weakened, brittle or inadequately attached film.



Wet acrylics in the tube/jar can be safely stored at low temperatures (above freezing) with no problem, provided the product is brought to warmer temperature before application.

Questions? [Ask the Expert](#)

Intended for reference only. Observe all package instructions. Dick Blick Holdings/Utrecht Art Supplies is not responsible for any damage to personal property that may result from use of the information presented herein. © Copyright 2013 Dick Blick Holdings Inc. All rights reserved.