

Safety at Home

If you are using hazardous products at home, make everyone aware of the dangers.

Remember that many of the products that you use at home are not required to have a material safety data sheet, so you should ask for them where you purchase products. Some retail chains are making an effort to supply consumers with the information they need.











If you cannot get an MSDS, read the label. Many product labels have a lot of information that would be included on the MSDS. If you are concerned that the chemicals you are using in your household could harm you, contact the manufacturer for additional information, or to be completely safe, look for alternative products that do not contain harmful chemicals.

Use extreme caution when mixing chemical containing products because they can react in ways that you would not expect.

For more information, refer to current applicable Occupational Health and Safety Legislation.

WHMIS Classes and Hazard Symbols

CLASS A  Compressed Gas	CLASS B  Flammable and Combustible Material	CLASS C  Oxidizing Material
CLASS D		
 1. Materials Causing Immediate and Serious Toxic Effects	 2. Materials Causing Other Toxic Effects	 3. Biohazardous Infectious Material
CLASS E  Corrosive Material	CLASS F  Dangerously Reactive Material	

The Alberta Construction Safety Association's mission is to provide quality advice and education for the construction industry that will reduce human suffering and financial costs associated with workplace incidents. This brochure is part of a series, **The Toolbox Brochures**, which are available on a variety of safety topics. If you have any questions or comments please contact:



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Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS)



Making Safety A Way Of Life



The Alberta Construction Safety Association

What You Don't Know Can Hurt You

Material Safety Data Sheets are very important to you and your co-workers. Nearly one-third of all workplace injuries and illnesses are related to exposure to controlled products, usually due to lack of knowledge. Your employer must ensure that workers who work with or near a controlled product receive appropriate training.

You Need to Know:

- That chemicals can be harmful to your health.
- That MSDS stands for Material Safety Data Sheets.
- That WHMIS stands for Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System.
- What WHMIS symbols on containers mean.
- That seeing a WHMIS symbol means you should check the Material Safety Data Sheet(s) for that product.
- How to use Material Safety Data Sheets to work safely with a product.
- Where the Material Safety Data Sheets are stored.
- Who is managing the Material Safety Data Sheets.
- How to report missing Material Safety Data Sheets.
- All Material Safety Data Sheets are to have a current date (less than three years old).



The Nine Parts to an MSDS

Product identification and use

What is the substance description and its intended use?

Hazardous ingredients

What are the proportions of the controlled or dangerous ingredients?

Physical data

The state of the material at room temperature—whether solid, liquid, or gas. What colour is it, and does it give off odours? Is it lighter or heavier than air? Lighter or heavier than water?

Fire or explosive hazard

What is the flammability level and explosion risk?

Reactivity data

How does it react with other products, and with which ones does it react?

Toxicological properties

Does it cause health problems or birth defects? How does it enter our bodies?

Preventative measures

How do we protect ourselves with the use of engineering, administrative controls or PPE? Storage and handling?

First aid measures

How do we treat for over exposure?

Preparation information

When was the MSDS prepared or revised?



Can you answer these questions before using a controlled product?

- Can this product harm your health?
- Can this product burn or explode?
- Does your work site need any control measures such as additional ventilation?
- Does this product require any special handling precautions?
- Do you need any personal protective equipment? Is it available on the work site?
- Do you need to be careful of mixing this product with any other(s)? Which one(s)?
- Does this product require any special storage considerations?
- Do you know what to do in case of fire or explosion?
- Do you know the first aid measures in case of over exposure?
- Do you know what to do in case of a spill or leak?
- Do you know where the emergency response equipment is and how to use it?



If in doubt, shout!

If you do not know the answer to any of these questions, talk to your supervisor, foreperson, or safety officer for the answers before using the product.

