

What is the Material Safety Data Sheet?

The Material Safety Data Sheet contains detailed information about a particular product. It typically contains 9 sections and is prepared by the product manufacturer. The following sections are required on each MSDS.

- 1) Identity – product name and chemical synonyms
- 2) Hazardous Ingredients – individual hazardous ingredients, typically listed by percentage.
- 3) Physical and Chemical Characteristics - includes information like vapor density which denotes how heavy a products vapors are compared to air.
- 4) Fire and Explosion Data - includes information relative to a products flammability or combustibility including flash point.
- 5) Reactivity Data – describes other materials or conditions with which the product should NOT come into contact.
- 6) Health Hazard Data – provides information relative to how the product could enter your body (routes of entry), whether the health effects could be short (acute) or long-term (chronic), signs and symptoms of exposure, medical conditions that could be aggravated by exposure and whether or not the product is considered cancer-causing (carcinogen).
- 7) First Aid Information – provides very general information regarding first aid in the event that over-exposure occurs.
- 8) Control Measures – includes information relative to recommended personal protective equipment including respiratory protection, gloves, ventilation and eye protection
- 9) Clean-up, Disposal and Storage – provides information relative to spills, environmental requirements for clean-up and disposal and general storage requirements.