

THE MSDS

Many of the terms used on MSDSs may be unfamiliar to you; a quick “glossary” of terms is provided below:

CARCINOGEN:	Identified as causing cancer in humans.
COMBUSTIBLE LIQUID:	Liquid with flash point at or above 100°F (37.8°C) but below 200°F (93.3°C).
COMPRESSED GAS:	Gas or mixture of gases compressed into a container.
CORROSIVE:	Capable of causing visible and irreversible damage to skin/eyes at site of contact.
EXPOSURE:	Chemical is allowed to <u>enter body</u> through its "route of entry."
EXPOSURE TIME:	Length of time chemical is allowed to <u>enter</u> body (through route of entry).
FLAMMABLE GAS:	A gas that forms a flammable mixture with air.
FLAMMABLE LIQUID:	Any liquid having a flash point below 100°F (37.8°C).
FLAMMABLE SOLID:	A solid (other than a blasting agent or explosive) which a) is liable to cause fire through friction, absorption of moisture or spontaneous chemical change, or b) can be ignited readily and burns vigorously.
FLASH POINT:	Minimum temperature at which a substance produces enough vapor to be ignited by a spark or flame.
IRRITANT:	Capable of producing a reversible inflammatory reaction at the site of contact with eyes, skin or respiratory tract.
KIDNEY/LIVER DAMAGE:	Can cause damage to these organs IF <u>route of entry</u> and <u>length of exposure</u> criteria are met/exceeded. <u>CHECK MSDS</u> for "route of entry" and "exposure time" necessary for chemical to cause damage to these organs.
MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheet)	Document available <u>on site</u> which describes safety precautions for each chemical.
NERVOUS SYSTEM EFFECTS:	Can cause damage to the central nervous system (CNS) IF <u>route of entry</u> and <u>length of exposure</u> criteria are met/exceeded. <u>CHECK MSDS</u> for "route of entry" and "exposure time" necessary for chemical to cause damage to the CNS.
OXIDIZER:	Promotes combustion of other chemicals, generally through release of oxygen.
REPRODUCTIVE EFFECTS:	Can cause damage to reproductive organs IF <u>route of entry</u> and <u>length of exposure</u> criteria are met/exceeded. <u>CHECK MSDS</u> for "route of entry" and "exposure time" necessary for chemical to cause damage to reproductive organs.
ROUTE OF ENTRY:	Route by which chemical can <u>enter</u> body (e.g. inhalation, ingestion, skin contact).
SENSITIZER:	Known to cause some form of hyper-sensitive (i.e. "allergic") reaction to exposed normal tissue.
TOXIC:	Can be hazardous to one's health IF <u>route of entry</u> and <u>length of exposure</u> criteria are met/exceeded. <u>CHECK MSDS</u> for "route of entry" and "exposure time" necessary for chemical to be hazardous to health. <i>Acute</i> toxicity refers to chemicals which are hazardous to health after a short exposure time (e.g. minutes, hours); <i>Chronic</i> toxicity refers to chemicals which are hazardous after longer exposure times (e.g. days, wks, mos, yrs), or short exposure times repeated over years.
TOXIC, HIGHLY:	Can be <u>very</u> hazardous to one's health IF <u>route of entry</u> and <u>length of exposure</u> criteria are met/exceeded. <u>CHECK MSDS</u> for "route of entry" and "exposure time" necessary for chemical to be hazardous to health.
WATER REACTIVE:	Can produce hazardous vapors or heat upon contact with water.