

Material Safety Data Sheets - MSDS

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) require that all chemical manufacturers, wholesalers and distributors provide Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for the products which they produce and sell. Typically, MSDS are shipped with the chemical order, or alternatively you may contact the manufacturer to request one or the distributors have MSDS available on their websites. OSHA requires that employers maintain in the workplace, copies of the MSDS for each hazardous chemical.

Before using any chemical, employees/students should read the container label and the appropriate MSDSs. Container labels and MSDSs are good sources of information for chemical safety and provide the following information:

- Hazardous ingredients
- Exposure limits
- Physical and chemical characteristics, including the following:
 - Boiling point
 - Vapor pressure
- Physical hazards, including the following:
 - Flammability
 - Explosives
 - Reactivity
- Health hazards, including chemicals that are:
 - Toxic
 - Carcinogens
 - Irritants
- First-aid procedures
- Proper leak, spill, and disposal techniques
- Proper storage and handling procedures
- Other special provisions