

## Safety Data Sheets | What you need to know



*Safety Data Sheets (SDS) contain important health and safety information about hazardous chemical products stored at worksites. Hazardous chemical products are substances labeled "POISON, DANGER, WARNING, or CAUTION." They include anything reactive, corrosive, toxic, poisonous, flammable and/or explosive. SDS's are written by chemical manufacturers or suppliers. They have more information than is found on chemical*

*product container labels. You can request an SDS from the manufacturer or they can be found on the manufacturer's website.*

*Employers must maintain a SDS file for all hazardous chemical products stored at each worksite. Ask your employer*

*about where SDS's are stored for the hazardous chemical products you may encounter in your workplace. Consider storing this flyer with these sheets for easy reference.*



### SDS's have 16 sections:

1. Identification
2. Hazard Identification
3. Composition/Ingredients
4. First-Aid Measures
5. Fire-Fighting Measures
6. Accidental Release Measures
7. Handling and Storage
8. Exposure Controls and Personal Protection
9. Physical and Chemical Properties
10. Stability and Reactivity
11. Toxicological Information
12. Ecological Information
13. Disposal Considerations
14. Transportation Information
15. Regulatory Information
16. Creation/Revision Date and Other Information

Turn the page for more information 

## Where on a SDS should you look in an emergency?

In an emergency, take a SDS with you when you seek help. Section 4, which details first-aid measures, can help if you need medical care. Section 5 and 6 will provide essential information if there is a fire or accidental release of the chemical.

Use SDS section 3 to find chemical products with safer ingredients. Compare ingredient lists for chemical products that do the same thing. Choose the safer chemical product, when possible.

## How can you protect yourself from chemical exposure?

Review the SDS for each hazardous product in your workplace. These sections will help you protect yourself from chemical exposure.

- **Section 2:** Learn about hazards of the chemical product.
- **Section 3:** Learn the ingredients of the chemical product.
- **Section 7:** Learn how to safely handle and store the chemical product.
- **Section 8:** Learn what protective equipment to use and how to minimize exposure risks.
- **Section 10:** Learn how to keep the chemical product from reacting.
- **Section 11:** Learn if and how the chemical product is toxic to humans.

Pictograms are used in SDS Section 2 to communicate hazards. Below you can see each pictogram and its meaning.



**Flame:**  
Flammable



**Gas Cylinder:**  
Gas stored under pressure



**Flame Over Circle:**  
Oxidizers, may cause a fire by increasing oxygen in the air



**Exclamation Mark:**  
A skin, eye, or respiratory tract irritant, or narcotic



**Exploding Bomb:**  
Explosives



**Skull and Crossbones:**  
Immediately toxic to humans



**Health Hazard:**  
Carcinogen or long-term health hazard



**Corrosion:**  
Materials cause skin or eye burns, or are corrosive to metals



**Environment:**  
Toxic to aquatic life