



SAFETY DATA SHEETS

TOOLBOX TALK SERIES – RIGHT TO KNOW

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Safety Data Sheets Training Video by Ally Safety

https://youtu.be/_yWF-w3CwmU?si=gAGkR_PYVXUSzwXT

What is an SDS?

A Safety Data Sheet (SDS), formerly known as a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), is a document that provides detailed information about the properties, handling, storage, and safety precautions for a particular chemical or product. It is a key resource for understanding potential hazards and how to protect yourself when working with chemicals, such as pesticides, fertilizers, cleaning supplies, or fuels in the workplace.

Why are SDS Important?

- **Safety:** SDS provide essential information on how to handle chemicals safely and what to do in case of an emergency (e.g., exposure, spills, or accidents).
- **Compliance:** SDS are required by law (OSHA in the U.S.) for all hazardous chemicals in the workplace. They ensure that employees are aware of the risks associated with chemicals they may encounter.
- **Emergency Response:** In case of a chemical spill or exposure, the SDS will tell emergency responders what they are dealing with and how to assist.



How to Read an SDS

An SDS typically contains **16 sections**. Each section provides specific information to help you understand the chemical and how to work with it safely. Here's a breakdown of the key sections:



1. **Section 1 – Identification**

- **What it contains:** Product name, manufacturer, recommended uses, and emergency contact information.
- **Why it's important:** Always start here to confirm you're looking at the correct chemical and know who to contact for help in case of an emergency.

2. **Section 2 – Hazard(s) Identification**

- **What it contains:** Overview of the chemical's hazards, including health and physical risks (e.g., toxic, flammable).
- **Why it's important:** This section helps you understand the immediate risks when working with the chemical.

3. **Section 3 – Composition/Information on Ingredients**

- **What it contains:** List of ingredients and their concentrations.
- **Why it's important:** This section helps you understand what makes up the chemical and what specific ingredients may cause harm.

4. **Section 4 – First-Aid Measures**

- **What it contains:** Instructions on what to do in case of exposure (e.g., skin contact, eye contact, inhalation, ingestion).
- **Why it's important:** Knowing the first-aid procedures can save time and help mitigate injury in the event of an accident.

5. **Section 5 – Fire-Fighting Measures**

- **What it contains:** Information on the chemical's flammability, suitable extinguishing media, and special fire-fighting procedures.
- **Why it's important:** Fire safety is crucial in the workplace, especially with flammable chemicals like gasoline, paints, or solvents.

6. **Section 6 – Accidental Release Measures**

- **What it contains:** Instructions on how to respond to spills, leaks, or other releases.
- **Why it's important:** Proper handling of spills or releases can prevent injuries and environmental damage.

7. **Section 7 – Handling and Storage**

- **What it contains:** Information on how to safely handle and store the chemical.
- **Why it's important:** Ensures you understand how to safely store chemicals to prevent accidents.

8. **Section 8 – Exposure Controls/Personal Protection**

- **What it contains:** Recommended exposure limits, PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) requirements, and ventilation.
- **Why it's important:** This section tells you what protective gear you need (gloves, goggles, respirators) and how to minimize exposure.

9. **Section 9 – Physical and Chemical Properties**

- **What it contains:** Information on the chemical's appearance, odor, pH, boiling point, and other characteristics.
- **Why it's important:** Knowing the properties helps you understand how the chemical will behave under different conditions (temperature, pressure, etc.).



10. Section 10 – Stability and Reactivity

- **What it contains:** Information on the chemical's stability, possible reactions with other substances, and conditions to avoid.
- **Why it's important:** This section helps you understand whether the chemical might become dangerous under certain conditions (heat, mixing with other chemicals, etc.).

11. Section 11 – Toxicological Information

- **What it contains:** Health effects of the chemical, including potential hazards like skin irritation, respiratory issues, or carcinogenicity.
- **Why it's important:** Helps you understand the potential health risks of working with the chemical.

12. Section 12 – Ecological Information

- **What it contains:** Environmental impact information, including whether the chemical can cause harm to aquatic life or soil.
- **Why it's important:** This section is important if you're working near water sources or natural areas and need to prevent environmental contamination.

13. Section 13 – Disposal Considerations

- **What it contains:** Guidelines on how to safely dispose of the chemical.
- **Why it's important:** Incorrect disposal can harm the environment and lead to fines or legal action.

14. Section 14 – Transport Information

- **What it contains:** Information on the safe transport of the chemical, including any special transport requirements.
- **Why it's important:** If chemicals are being moved or transported, this section helps ensure they are handled correctly.

15. Section 15 – Regulatory Information

- **What it contains:** Regulatory status and information on specific regulations related to the chemical.
- **Why it's important:** Helps ensure compliance with relevant laws and standards.

16. Section 16 – Other Information

- **What it contains:** Additional information, including the date the SDS was prepared and any revisions.
- **Why it's important:** Provides important context, including updates to the SDS.

Practical Tips for Using an SDS

- **Always review the SDS** before using any chemical product.
- **Know where SDS are stored.** In our workplace, SDS are kept in a digital format available at:

https://www.ijkellerportal.com/chemicals/sds_employee_access/dHQf3kp2UKR0XPGw2B3lw or via the QR codes throughout the workplace.





- **Understand the hazards** and take necessary precautions (e.g., PPE, ventilation).
 - **In case of exposure or spill**, immediately refer to the SDS for first-aid measures and proper clean-up procedures.
 - **When in doubt**, always ask for help or further clarification from a supervisor.
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Conclusion

Understanding how to read an SDS is a critical skill for anyone working in a workplace where chemicals are used. By being familiar with the information on the SDS, you can protect yourself, your coworkers, and the environment from potential hazards. Always take the time to read the SDS before handling chemicals and be prepared for any emergencies.

