

POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET



JLM MARKETING, INC.

8675 Hidden River Parkway  
Tampa, FL 33637  
In case of Emergency call CHEMTREC 1-800-424-9300

**POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE**



Product      MSDS No.  
US23              001

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**SECTION 1: PRODUCT AND COMPANY IDENTIFICATION**

SUPPLIER.....JLM MARKETING, INC.  
8675 HIDDEN RIVER PARKWAY  
TAMPA, FL 33637  
PHONE: 813-632-3300  
FAX: 813-632-3301

# POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER(S)...CHEMTREC DAY OR NIGHT 1-800-424-9300  
REVISION DATE.....1998/11/09  
REVISION.....NEW FORMAT  
TRADE NAMES/SYNONYMS:.....CAUSTIC POTASH; POTASSIUM HYDRATE; LYE;  
POTASSA; KOH; HYDROXYDE DE POTASSIUM (SOLIDE)  
CHEMICAL FAMILY.....ALKALI HYDROXIDE / INORGANIC POTASSIUM COMPOUND  
PRODUCT USE.....CHEMICAL INTERMEDIATE FOR THE PRODUCTION OF  
INORGANIC POTASSIUM CHEMICALS. USED IN THE  
MANUFACTURE OF SOAPS, PRINTING INKS, PAINT AND  
VARNISH REMOVERS, DYESTUFFS, LIQUID FERTILIZERS  
AND HERBICIDES. USED IN ELECTROPLATING,  
PHOTOENGRAVING AND LITHOGRAPHY; VETERINARY  
MEDICINE; PETROLEUM REFINING; SCRUBBING AND  
CLEANING OPERATIONS; AND IN ANALYTICAL  
CHEMISTRY AND ORGANIC SYNTHESIS. USED AS AN  
ELECTROLYTE IN ALKALINE STORAGE BATTERIES AND  
SOME FUEL CELLS; A MORDANT FOR WOOD; FOR  
MERCERIZING COTTON; AN ABSORBENT FOR CARBON  
DIOXIDE AND HYDROGEN SULFIDE; AND AS A FOOD  
ADDITIVE.  
CHEMICAL FORMULA.....H-K-O  
NFPA HAZARD RATING:  
FIRE.....0  
HEALTH.....3  
REACTIVITY.....1

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## SECTION 2: COMPOSITION/INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

| INGREDIENT          | %CONC. | C.A.S.    | ACGIH-TLV       | OSHA-PEL        |
|---------------------|--------|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE | 100    | 1310-58-3 | 2 MG/M3 CEILING | 2 MG/M3 CEILING |

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## SECTION 3: HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

EMERGENCY OVERVIEW.....WHITE OR SLIGHTLY YELLOW, ODOURLESS,  
NON-VOLATILE PELLETS, FLAKES, LUMPS OR STICKS.  
DELIQUESCENT. WILL NOT BURN. HIGHLY REACTIVE.  
CAN REACT VIOLENTLY WITH WATER AND MANY  
COMMONLY ENCOUNTERED MATERIALS, GENERATING  
ENOUGH HEAT TO IGNITE NEARBY COMBUSTIBLE  
MATERIALS. CONTACT WITH MANY ORGANIC AND  
INORGANIC CHEMICALS MAY CAUSE FIRE OR  
EXPLOSION. REACTION WITH METALS RELEASES  
FLAMMABLE HYDROGEN GAS. EXTREMELY CORROSIVE.  
CAN CAUSE BLINDNESS, PERMANENT SCARRING AND  
DEATH. AEROSOLS CAN CAUSE LUNG INJURY WITH  
DELAYED EFFECTS.

POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS:  
INGESTION.....POISON. MAY BE FATAL IF SWALLOWED. CAUSES  
BURNS TO THE MOUTH, THROAT AND STOMACH. MAY  
CAUSE VOMITING, PAIN, DIARRHEA, COLLAPSE AND  
POSSIBLE DEATH.  
SKIN CONTACT.....EXTREMELY CORROSIVE AND IS CAPABLE OF CAUSING  
SEVERE BURNS WITH DEEP ULCERATION, PENETRATING  
TO DEEPER LAYERS OF SKIN CAUSING PERMANENT  
SCARRING AND POSSIBLY DEATH. THE BURNS MAY NOT

# POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE

BE IMMEDIATELY PAINFUL; ONSET OF PAIN MAY BE MINUTES TO HOURS.

INHALATION.....SEVERELY IRRITATING TO THE NOSE AND THROAT. MAY CAUSE INFLAMMATION OF THE RESPIRATORY TRACT. SYMPTOMS INCLUDE SORE THROAT, COUGHING, HEADACHE, NAUSEA, DIFFICULTY BREATHING, AND MAY LEAD TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF PULMONARY EDEMA WHICH MAY BE FATAL.

EYE CONTACT.....CORROSIVE TO EYES. SEVERELY IRRITATING TO EYES. DAMAGE MAY BE PERMANENT. SYMPTOMS INCLUDE REDNESS, PAIN, CORNEAL DAMAGE AND BLINDNESS. CONDITIONS AFFECTING VISION SUCH AS CATARACTS AND GLAUCOMA ARE POSSIBLE LATE DEVELOPMENTS.

MEDICAL CONDITIONS

AGGRAVATED.....PREEXISTING SKIN CONDITIONS

SUBCHRONIC (TARGET ORGAN)

EFFECTS.....NO DATA

CHRONIC EFFECTS.....REPEATED SKIN CONTACT MAY RESULT IN DRYING, CRACKING AND INFLAMMATION.

CARCINOGENICITY.....THERE IS REPORTED TO BE FREQUENT INCIDENCE OF SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA IN TISSUE HEALING FROM BURNS DUE TO POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE.

NTP.....NO

IARC.....NO

OSHA.....NO

OTHER TOXICOLOGICAL DATA...NO DATA

PRINCIPAL ROUTES OF ENTRY...EYE CONTACT  
SKIN CONTACT  
INHALATION

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## SECTION 4: FIRST AID MEASURES

EYE CONTACT.....IMMEDIATELY FLUSH THE CONTAMINATED EYE(S) WITH LUKEWARM, GENTLY FLOWING WATER FOR AT LEAST 60 MINUTES, BY THE CLOCK, WHILE HOLDING THE EYELID(S) OPEN. NEUTRAL SALINE SOLUTION MAY BE USED AS SOON AS IT IS AVAILABLE. DO NOT INTERRUPT FLUSHING. IF NECESSARY, KEEP EMERGENCY VEHICLE WAITING. TAKE CARE NOT TO RINSE CONTAMINATED WATER INTO THE UNAFFECTED EYE OR ONTO THE FACE. QUICKLY TRANSPORT VICTIM TO AN EMERGENCY CARE FACILITY.

SKIN CONTACT.....QUICKLY AND GENTLY BLOT OR BRUSH AWAY EXCESS CHEMICAL. AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, REMOVE CONTAMINATED CLOTHING, SHOES AND LEATHER GOODS (E.G. WATCHBANDS, BELTS). FLUSH CONTAMINATED AREA WITH LUKEWARM, GENTLY FLOWING WATER FOR AT LEAST 60 MINUTES, BY THE CLOCK. DO NOT INTERRUPT FLUSHING. IF NECESSARY, KEEP EMERGENCY VEHICLE WAITING. TRANSPORT VICTIM TO AN EMERGENCY CARE FACILITY IMMEDIATELY. DISCARD CONTAMINATED CLOTHING, SHOES AND LEATHER GOODS.

INHALATION.....REMOVE SOURCE OF CONTAMINATION OR MOVE VICTIM TO FRESH AIR. IF BREATHING IS DIFFICULT, OXYGEN MAY BE BENEFICIAL IF ADMINISTERED BY TRAINED PERSONNEL, PREFERABLY ON A DOCTOR'S ADVICE. DO NOT ALLOW VICTIM TO MOVE ABOUT UNNECESSARILY. SYMPTOMS OF PULMONARY EDEMA CAN BE DELAYED UP TO 48 HOURS AFTER EXPOSURE.

# POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE

IMMEDIATELY TRANSPORT VICTIM TO AN EMERGENCY CARE FACILITY.

INGESTION.....OBTAIN IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE - DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING. IF VOMITING OCCURS SPONTANEOUSLY, KEEP HEAD BELOW HIPS TO AVOID ASPIRATION.

NOTE TO PHYSICIAN.....TREAT SYMPTOMATICALLY

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## SECTION 5: FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

FLASH POINT.....NONE

METHOD.....NOT APPLICABLE

IGNITION TEMPERATURE.....NOT APPLICABLE

UPPER FLAMMABLE LIMIT.....NOT APPLICABLE

LOWER FLAMMABILITY LIMIT...NOT APPLICABLE

SENSITIVITY TO MECHANICAL IMPACT.....NO

SENSITIVITY TO STATIC DISCHARGE.....NOT EXPECTED

EXTINGUISHING MEDIA.....USE SUITABLE EXTINGUISHING AGENTS FOR SURROUNDING FIRE.

IF WATER IS USED, CARE SHOULD BE TAKEN, SINCE IT CAN GENERATE HEAT AND CAUSE SPATTERING IF APPLIED DIRECTLY TO POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE. ALSO, USE CARE IF CARBON DIOXIDE IS USED, SINCE IT REACTS WITH POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE WITH THE GENERATION OF HEAT.

SPECIAL FIREFIGHTING PROCEDURES.....EVACUATE AREA AND FIGHT FIRE FROM A SAFE DISTANCE OR A PROTECTED LOCATION. APPROACH FIRE FROM UPWIND. IF POSSIBLE, ISOLATE MATERIALS NOT INVOLVED IN THE FIRE AND PROTECT PERSONNEL.

MOVE CONTAINERS FROM FIRE AREA IF IT CAN BE DONE WITHOUT RISK.

WATER CAN BE USED WITH EXTREME CAUTION TO EXTINGUISH A FIRE IN AN AREA WHERE POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE IS STORED. THE WATER MUST NOT COME INTO CONTACT WITH THE POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE. WATER CAN BE USED IN FLOODING QUANTITIES AS A SPRAY OR FOG TO KEEP FIRE-EXPOSED CONTAINERS COOL AND ABSORB HEAT. AT HIGH TEMPERATURES, FUMING MAY OCCUR, GIVING OFF A STRONG, CORROSIVE GAS. DO NOT ENTER WITHOUT WEARING SPECIALIZED PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT SUITABLE FOR THE SITUATION. FIREFIGHTER'S NORMAL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING (BUNKER GEAR) WILL NOT PROVIDE ADEQUATE PROTECTION. CHEMICAL RESISTANT CLOTHING (E.G. CHEMICAL SPLASH SUIT) AND POSITIVE PRESSURE SELF-CONTAINED BREATHING APPARATUS (MSHA/NIOSH APPROVED OR EQUIVALENT) MAY BE NECESSARY.

FLAMMABILITY CLASS (OSHA)...NOT APPLICABLE

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# POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE

## SECTION 6: ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

### ACTION TO BE TAKEN FOR

SPIILLS OR RELEASES.....RESTRICT ACCESS TO AREA UNTIL COMPLETION OF CLEAN-UP. ENSURE CLEAN-UP IS CONDUCTED BY TRAINED PERSONNEL ONLY.  
WEAR ADEQUATE PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT. VENTILATE AREA OF SPILL. REMOVE COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS FROM THE VICINITY OF A MAJOR SPILL. NOTIFY GOVERNMENT OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITIES.  
CONTAIN SPILL OR LEAK. DO NOT ALLOW ENTRY INTO SEWERS OR WATERWAYS. SHOVEL OR SWEEP UP DRY POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE FOR RECYCLING OR DISPOSAL. NEUTRALIZE FINAL TRACES AND FLUSH AREA WITH WATER.

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## SECTION 7: HANDLING AND STORAGE

HANDLING PROCEDURES.....DO NOT GET IN EYES, ON SKIN, OR ON CLOTHING. DO NOT BREATHE FUMES OR DUST FROM THIS MATERIAL. USE THIS PRODUCT ONLY WITH ADEQUATE VENTILATION. KEEP THIS PRODUCT FROM HEAT, SPARKS, OR OPEN FLAME. LABEL CONTAINERS AND KEEP THEM TIGHTLY CLOSED WHEN EMPTY OR NOT IN USE. EMPTY CONTAINERS RETAIN PRODUCT RESIDUE AND CAN BE DANGEROUS. WASH THOROUGHLY AFTER HANDLING.  
STORAGE PROCEDURES.....STORE IN A COOL, DRY, WELL VENTILATED AREA AWAY FROM INCOMPATIBLE MATERIALS. STORE AWAY FROM DIRECT SUNLIGHT AND ALL SOURCES OF HEAT. LIMIT QUANTITY STORED AND ACCESS TO STORAGE AREA. KEEP AWAY FROM ALL FOOD AND DRINKING WATER.

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## SECTION 8: EXPOSURE CONTROLS/PERSONAL PROTECTION

ENGINEERING CONTROLS.....USE LOCAL EXHAUST AND PROCESS ENCLOSURE TO CONTROL AIRBORNE DUSTS. USE OF A CORROSION-RESISTANT VENTILATION SYSTEM IS RECOMMENDED.  
EXPOSURE LIMITS.....2 mg/m3 CEILING  
RESPIRATORY PROTECTION.....THE SPECIFIC RESPIRATOR SELECTED MUST BE BASED ON CONTAMINATION LEVELS FOUND IN THE WORK PLACE, MUST NOT EXCEED THE WORKING LIMITS OF THE RESPIRATOR AND BE JOINTLY APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH AND THE MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (NIOSH-MSHA).  
PROTECTIVE CLOTHES.....WEAR IMPERVIOUS GLOVES AND SYNTHETIC APRON. CLOTHING SHOULD BE WORN TO PREVENT ALL SKIN CONTACT. RECOMMENDED GLOVES INCLUDE BUTYL RUBBER, NATURAL RUBBER, NEOPRENE AND NITRILE, HOWEVER IT IS SUGGESTED THAT GLOVES BE TESTED FOR SUITABILITY.  
EYE AND FACE PROTECTION.....DUST OR SPLASH PROOF CHEMICAL SAFETY GOGGLES OR FACE SHIELDS (EIGHT-INCH MINIMUM).

# POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE

OTHER PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT...WHERE THERE IS ANY POSSIBILITY THAT AN EMPLOYEE'S EYES MAY BE EXPOSED TO THIS SUBSTANCE, THE EMPLOYER SHOULD PROVIDE AN EYE WASH FOUNTAIN WITHIN THE IMMEDIATE WORK AREA FOR EMERGENCY USE.  
WHERE THERE IS ANY POSSIBILITY THAT AN EMPLOYEE'S SKIN MAY BE EXPOSED TO THIS SUBSTANCE, THE EMPLOYER SHOULD PROVIDE A QUICK DRENCH SHOWER WITHIN THE IMMEDIATE WORK AREA FOR EMERGENCY USE.

VENTILATION.....PROVIDE LOCAL EXHAUST OR PROCESS ENCLOSURE VENTILATION TO MEET PUBLISHED EXPOSURE LIMITS.

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## SECTION 9: PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

VAPOR DENSITY (AIR=1).....NOT APPLICABLE  
FREEZING/MELTING POINT.....680°F (360°C)  
PHYSICAL STATE.....SOLID  
ODOR.....ODORLESS  
COLOR.....WHITE OR SLIGHTLY YELLOW FLAKES  
ODOR THRESHOLD (PPM).....ODORLESS  
VOLATILES % VOLUME.....NOT APPLICABLE  
EVAPORATION RATE (BUTYL ACETATE=1.0).....NOT APPLICABLE  
SPECIFIC GRAVITY (WATER=1.0).....2.044 @ 15°C  
MOLECULAR WEIGHT.....56.11  
ACID/ALKALINITY (MEQ/G).....NO DATA  
PH.....13.5 (0.1M SOLUTION)  
VOC (EPA METHOD 24).....NOT APPLICABLE  
SOLUBILITY IN ORGANIC SOLVENTS.....SOLUBLE IN ETHANOL AND GLYCEROL; INSOLUBLE IN DIETHYL ETHER AND AMMONIA.  
BOILING POINT.....2408°-2415°F (1320°-1324°C) @ 760 mmHg  
VAPOR PRESSURE MM/HG (20°C).....NEGLIGIBLE  
SOLUBILITY IN WATER (20°C)..VERY SOLUBLE: 111 g/100mL @ 25°C  
OCTANOL/WATER PARTITION COEFFICIENT.....NO DATA

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## SECTION 10: STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

STABILITY.....STABLE  
POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE RAPIDLY ABSORBS CARBON DIOXIDE FROM THE AIR (FORMING POTASSIUM CARBONATE)

HAZARDOUS POLYMERIZATION....WILL NOT OCCUR

HAZARDOUS THERMAL DECOMPOSITION/COMBUSTION PRODUCTS.....POTASSIUM CARBONATE

INCOMPATIBILITY (MATERIALS TO AVOID).....POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE REACTS VIGOROUSLY, VIOLENTLY OR EXPLOSIVELY WITH MANY ORGANIC AND INORGANIC CHEMICALS, SUCH AS STRONG ACIDS, ACID CHLORIDES, ACID ANHYDRIDES, NITROAROMATIC, NITROPARAFFIN AND ORGANOHALOGEN COMPOUNDS AND ORGANIC PEROXIDES.

# POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE

REACTS VIOLENTLY WITH WATER GENERATING SIGNIFICANT HEAT AND DANGEROUSLY SPATTERING CORROSIVE POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE. VIOLENTLY POLYMERIZES ACETALDEHYDE, ACRYLONITRILE OR ACRYLONITRILE. PRODUCES FLAMMABLE AND EXPLOSIVE HYDROGEN GAS IF IT REACTS WITH SODIUM TETRAHYDROBORATE OR METALS, SUCH AS ALUMINUM, TIN, OR ZINC. PRODUCES SPONTANEOUSLY FLAMMABLE PHOSPHINE GAS IF IT REACTS WITH PHOSPHORUS. CAN FORM SPONTANEOUSLY FLAMMABLE CHEMICALS UPON CONTACT WITH 1,2- DICHLOROETHYLENE, TRICHLOROETHYLENE OR TETRACHLOROETHANE. CAN REACT EXPLOSIVELY WITH CHLORINE DIOXIDE, MALEIC ANHYDRIDE, NITROGEN TRICHLORIDE, N-NITROSOMETHYLUREA AND TETRAHYDROFURAN. CAN PRODUCE CARBON MONOXIDE UPON CONTACT WITH SOLUTIONS OF SUGARS, SUCH AS FRUCTOSE, LACTOSE AND MALTOSE.

CONDITIONS TO AVOID.....MOISTURE

CORROSIVE TO ALUMINUM, LEAD, TIN, ZINC, COPPER, BRASS AND BRONZE. CORROSIVE TO STEEL AT ELEVATED TEMPERATURES (ABOVE 40 DEG C). NOT CORROSIVE TO NICKEL.

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## SECTION 11: TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

LD50 ORAL.....273 mg/kg RAT

LD50 DERMAL.....NO DATA

LC50 INHALATION.....NO DATA

OTHER.....SKIN (RABBIT): 50 mg/24 HOURS -SEVERE

IRRITATION

EYE (RABBIT): 1 mg/24 HOURS (RINSED) - MODERATE

IRRITATION

AMES TEST RESULTS.....POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE HAS PRODUCED MUTAGENICITY

IN CHINESE HAMSTER OVARY (CHO) CELLS IN VITRO.

HOWEVER, THE AUTHORS CONCLUDED THAT THE

MUTAGENIC RESPONSE WAS DUE TO THE EFFECTS OF PH

AND NOT THE MUTAGENICITY OF POTASSIUM

HYDROXIDE. POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE WAS NOT

MUTAGENIC IN STUDIES WITH ESCHERICHERI COLI.

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## SECTION 12: ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

ECOTOXICOLOGICAL

INFORMATION.....LC50 (24 HOUR) MOSQUITO FISH, 80 mg/L

CHEMICAL FATE INFORMATION...NO DATA AT THIS TIME

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## SECTION 13: DISPOSAL CONSIDERATION

DISPOSAL METHOD.....IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEDERAL, STATE, LOCAL REGULATIONS

REPORTABLE QUANTITY.....MAY MEET THE REQUIREMENTS OF CORROSIVE WASTE:

D002

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# POTASSIUM HYDROXIDE

## SECTION 16: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

DISCLAIMER.....THIS MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET WAS PRODUCED FROM RELIABLE SOURCES. HOWEVER, IT IS PROVIDED WITHOUT REPRESENTATION OR WARRANTY EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED REGARDING ACCURACY OR CORRECTNESS. CONDITIONS AND METHODS OF USE ARE BEYOND THE CONTROL AND KNOWLEDGE OF JLM MARKETING, INC. JLM MARKETING, INC. DOES NOT ASSUME ANY RESPONSIBILITY AND EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS LIABILITY FOR INJURY, LOSS, DAMAGE OR EXPENSES ARISING FROM THE USE OF THIS PRODUCT.

ABBREVIATIONS USED.....ABBREVIATIONS USED THROUGHOUT THIS MSDS ARE:  
ACGIH = AMERICAN CONFERENCE OF GOVERNMENTAL INDUSTRIAL HYGIENISTS  
TWA = TIME WEIGHTED AVERAGE (EXPOSURE VALUES)  
STEL = SHORT TERM EXPOSURE LIMITS  
OSHA = OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION  
PEL = PERMITTED EXPOSURE LIMITS  
ppm = PARTS PER MILLION  
mg = MILLIGRAMS  
NIOSH = NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY  
MSHA = MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION  
lb = POUNDS  
m3 = PER METRE CUBED  
NTP = NATIONAL TOXICOLOGICAL PROGRAM  
g = GRAMS  
ml = MILLILITRE  
RTECS = REGISTRY OF TOXICS EFFECTS OF CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES (NIOSH)

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## SECTION 17: LABEL INFORMATION

WARNING/PRECAUTIONS.....WHITE OR SLIGHTLY YELLOW, ODOURLESS, NON-VOLATILE PELLETS, FLAKES, LUMPS OR STICKS. DELIQUESCENT. WILL NOT BURN. HIGHLY REACTIVE. CAN REACT VIOLENTLY WITH WATER AND MANY COMMONLY ENCOUNTERED MATERIALS, GENERATING ENOUGH HEAT TO IGNITE NEARBY COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS. CONTACT WITH MANY ORGANIC AND INORGANIC CHEMICALS MAY CAUSE FIRE OR EXPLOSION. REACTION WITH METALS RELEASES FLAMMABLE HYDROGEN GAS. EXTREMELY CORROSIVE. CAN CAUSE BLINDNESS, PERMANENT SCARRING AND DEATH. AEROSOLS CAN CAUSE LUNG INJURY WITH DELAYED EFFECTS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION....SEE THE MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET  
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