

## :: Safety Data Sheets (SDS) Facts ::

### Categories

**The information on an SDS is typically grouped into the following categories:**

- Hazard ratings, such as NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) ratings
- Name and address of the material's manufacturer or importer
- Identity; by common name, synonyms, and chemical abstract number of the material
- Physical and chemical characteristics, such as the material's appearance, odor, specific gravity and melting point
- Fire and explosion data, such as the material's flash point, explosion hazards and recommended fire extinguishing media
- Physical hazards, such as the material's stability, incompatible material information and hazardous decomposition products
- Health hazards, such as inhalation and ingestion hazards, carcinogen classification and basic first-aid information
- Special precautions and spill or leak procedures, such as storage, clean-up and disposal information
- Special protection information, such as personal protective equipment recommendations

### Terms

Material safety data sheets have some terms you may not be familiar with, such as the specific gravity or flash point of a material. To help familiarize you and assist in your understanding of terms used on a SDS, general information can be found at the following website:  
<http://www.ehso.com/msdsdefs.php>.

### Other Information about SDSs

- Safety data sheets are supposed to be supplied by the manufacturer or distributor of a hazardous material.
- Information on a safety data sheet should not be changed or otherwise altered by employees, except with written permission from the manufacturer of the product.
- Questions about specific information provided on a SDS should be addressed to the manufacturer of the product (name, address and contact information are contained in the "identity" section of the SDS).
- SDSs should be used to appropriately label all unlabeled hazardous-material containers to properly identify the product inside and the health hazards associated with the product.