What to Look for on a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS)

Protect yourself by understanding the chemicals you work with!
The MSDS will give you this information:

Product Identification
The name of the substance and product number, the name and address of the manufacturer, and usually a phone number for emergencies and more information.

Hazardous Ingredients
Ingredients that might be dangerous, and safe exposure limits such as Permissible Exposure Limit or PEL (set by OSHA) or the Threshold Value Limit or TVL. It also lists common names for the chemical.

Physical Characteristics
Many physical qualities of the chemical, and what’s usual or safe. For example, how the chemical looks and smells; boiling and melting temperatures (important in case a chemical might become a gas you might breath); evaporation rate (known as percent volatile); how easily the chemical dissolves; and how heavy it is (this tells you if it will sink, float or dissolve in water).

Fire and Explosion Data
The lowest temperature when the chemical could ignite (flash point); if it’s flammable (catches fire below 100 degrees F) or combustible (catches fire above 100 degrees F); and the best way to put out a fire involving this chemical.

Reactivity
What happens if this chemical comes in contact with air, water or other chemicals; which conditions (like heat) or materials (like water) can cause the chemical to react by burning, exploding or releasing dangerous vapors. In that case, the chemical is called “incompatible” or “unstable” with these conditions or substances.

Health Effects

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<th>Health Hazards</th>
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<td>Ways the chemical might enter your body, like splashing on your skin or being breathed in as vapor, as well as possible symptoms of overexposure. The MSDS lets you know if overexposure might make existing medical conditions worse, and describes emergency first aid procedures.</td>
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Usage, Handling, And Storage

How to clean up an accident, spill, leak or release, including special procedures; how to handle, store and dispose of chemicals safely. Remember, if there is a spill, don’t handle it yourself if you don’t know the correct procedure, including what protective equipment to wear.

Special Protection and Precautions

What Personal Protective Equipment to use when working with the chemical, special procedures, extra health and safety information, signs that should be posted and other information.

Product Name: Glassodur-Hardener Very Fast
Chemical Entity: CAS No: Proportion (%):
Polyisocyanate --------- 30-60%
Butyl acetate 123-86-4 10-30%
Xylene 1330-20-7 10-30%
Hexamethylene diisocyanate 822-06-0 < 1%
Ingredients determined not to be hazardous to 100%