

METHYLENE CHLORIDE

Synonyms: Dichloromethane, Methylene dichloride

TYPES OF HAZARD/ EXPOSURE	ACUTE HAZARDS/ SYMPTOMS	PREVENTION	FIRST AID/ FIRE FIGHTING
FIRE	Combustible under specific conditions. Gives off irritating or toxic fumes (or gases) in a fire.		In case of fire in the surroundings: use appropriate extinguishing media.
EXPLOSION	Risk of fire and explosion (see Chemical Dangers).	Prevent build-up of electrostatic charges (e.g., by grounding).	In case of fire: keep drums, etc., cool by spraying with water.
EXPOSURE		PREVENT GENERATION OF MISTS! STRICT HYGIENE!	
•INHALATION	Dizziness. Drowsiness. Headache. Nausea. Weakness. Unconsciousness. Death.	Ventilation, local exhaust	Fresh air, rest. Artificial respiration may be needed. Refer for medical attention.
•SKIN	Dry skin. Redness. Burning sensation.	Protective gloves. Protective clothing.	Remove contaminated clothes. Rinse and then wash skin with water and soap.
•EYES	Redness. Pain. Severe deep burns.	Safety goggles, face shield and eye protection.	First rinse with plenty of water for several minutes (remove contact lenses if easily possible), then take to a doctor.
•INGESTION	Abdominal pain. (Further see Inhalation).	Do not eat, drink, or smoke during work. Wash hands before eating.	Rinse mouth. Do NOT induce vomiting. Give plenty of water to drink. Rest.

Chemical Dangers: On contact with hot surfaces or flames this substance decomposes forming toxic and corrosive fumes. Reacts violently with metals such as aluminum powder and magnesium powder, strong bases and strong oxidants causing fire and explosion hazard. Attacks some forms of plastic rubber and coatings.

Physical Dangers: The vapor is heavier than air. As a result of flow, agitation, etc., electrostatic charges can be generated.

Storage: Incompatibilities & reactivities include strong oxidizers; caustics; chemically-active metals such as aluminum, magnesium powders, potassium & sodium; concentrated nitric acid.

Handling, Containment Devices and PPE: Use in exhaust hood with nitrile chemical resistant gloves (if heavy exposure is anticipated contact Safety and Health for other glove options) and chemical goggles. If a splash hazard to the face is present, a face shield is also required.

Waste Disposal: Collect and store in a glass container labeled with the following “Hazardous Waste -Methylene Chloride.” Call Safety and Health at x5069 on the Health Science Campus and x3600 on the Main Campus for pick up.

Emergency Spill Procedures and Decontamination: call x 77 on the Health Science Campus and x2600 for Campus Police on the Main Campus.