

VINYL CHLORIDE

Synonyms: Chloroethene, Chloroethylene, Ethylene monochloride, Monochloroethene, Monochloroethylene, VC, Vinyl chloride monomer (VCM)

TYPES OF HAZARD/ EXPOSURE	ACUTE HAZARDS/ SYMPTOMS	PREVENTION	FIRST AID/ FIRE FIGHTING
FIRE	Extremely flammable. Gives off irritating or toxic fumes (or gases) in a fire.	NO open flames, NO sparks, and NO smoking.	Shut off supply; if not possible and no risk to surroundings, let the fire burn itself out; in other cases extinguish with powder, carbon dioxide.
EXPLOSION	Gas/air mixtures are explosive.	Closed system, ventilation, explosion-proof electrical equipment and lighting. Use non-sparking hand tools.	In case of fire: keep cylinder cool by spraying with water. Combat fire from a sheltered position.
EXPOSURE		AVOID ALL CONTACT!	IN ALL CASES CONSULT A DOCTOR!
•INHALATION	Dizziness. Drowsiness. Headache. Unconsciousness.	Ventilation or local exhaust	Fresh air, rest. Refer for medical attention.
•SKIN	ON CONTACT WITH LIQUID: FROSTBITE.	Protective gloves. Cold-insulating gloves. Protective clothing.	ON FROSTBITE: rinse with plenty of water, do NOT remove clothes.
•EYES	Redness. Pain.	Safety goggles and eye protection	First rinse with plenty of water for several minutes (remove contact lenses if easily possible), then take to a doctor.
•INGESTION		Do not eat, drink, or smoke during work.	

Chemical Dangers: The substance can under specific circumstances form peroxides, initiating explosive polymerization. The substance will polymerize readily due to heating and under the influence of air, light and on contact with a catalyst, strong oxidizing agents and metals such as copper and aluminum, with fire or explosion hazard. The substance decomposes on burning producing toxic and corrosive fumes (hydrogen chloride, phosgene). Attacks iron and steel in the presence of moisture.

Physical Dangers: The gas is heavier than air, and may travel along the ground; distant ignition possible. Vinyl chloride monomer vapors are uninhibited and may form polymers in vents or flame arresters of storage tanks, resulting in blockage of vents.

Storage: Incompatibilities and reactivities include copper, oxidizers, aluminum, peroxides, iron, steel [Note: Polymerizes in air, sunlight, or heat unless stabilized by inhibitors such as phenol. Attacks iron & steel in presence of moisture.] Peroxidizable compound; date upon receipt and opening. Dispose of after 18 months from receipt and 3 months from date of opening.

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 - Vinyl 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.