

Safety Data Sheets (SDS)

The **Safety Data Sheet** tells you how to work safely with a chemical. It also tells you what to do if there is an accident and lists information that will help your doctor treat you. The SDS has 16 sections, and every SDS lists the same kind of information in the same section.

Section	Topic	What this means
1	Product Name and Company info	This section also includes an emergency phone number.
2	Hazards Identification	Lists any physical, health or environmental hazards. Also lists everything that is on the label.
3	Composition/Information on Ingredients	The chemical name is listed here. If it is a mix of more than one chemical, all of the different chemicals are listed.
4	First-Aid Measures	Lists first-aid and describes symptoms.
5	Firefighting Measures	Lists what kind of fire-fighting equipment is safe to use. Tells if burning the chemical will make new dangerous chemicals.
6	Accidental Release Measures	Tells what to do if there is a leak, spill, or if dangerous gases are released.
7	Handling and Storage	Tells how to safely handle and store the product. Also lists any chemicals that are dangerous when mixed with the product.
8	Exposure Controls and Personal Protection	Lists safety equipment and PPE that should be used. Also lists any exposure limits.
9	Physical and Chemical Properties	Lists if it is a solid, liquid or gas and other properties, such as flammability.
10	Stability and Reactivity	This section lists any other chemicals that are dangerous to have near the product. It will also tell if there are any other dangers, such as if it needs to be kept cold.
11	Toxicological Information	Lists health effects, and describes symptoms if exposed. Tells if the product causes cancer.
12	Ecological Information	Describes what can happen to the environment if there is an accident.
13	Disposal Considerations ¹	Describes how to safely dispose of the product.
14	Transport Information ²	Describes US and international shipping regulations for the product.
15	Regulatory Information	Lists any regulations that are not listed anywhere else on the SDS.
16	Other Information	Lists publication or last revision date for the SDS. May also list other helpful information.
Contact the Office of Clinical & Research Safety - www.vumc.org/safety if: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You have questions about chemical disposal. OCRS manages the Vanderbilt chemical waste program. 2. You need to ship a chemical. Hazardous chemicals must be shipped according to U.S. Department of Transportation regulations. Contact OCRS several days in advance if you will need to ship chemicals. 		

Find the SDS for your chemicals. Each department where chemicals are used keeps a **List** of all of the chemicals they have. There will be a SDS for every chemical on the list. Read the SDS for the chemicals you work with.

Keep SDS available. You never know when an accident will happen, so you always need access to your SDS. Make sure everyone in your department can access them at any time.

Get more information about the Hazard Communication Standard and Safety Data Sheets:

- Visit the OCRS web site for more information about the Hazard Communication Standard (<https://www.vumc.org/safety/osha/hazard-communication-standard>).
- Visit the OSHA web site for more information about the Hazard Communication Standard (<https://www.osha.gov/dsg/hazcom/>). The OSHA Brief "Hazard Communication Standard: Safety Data Sheets" (<https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3514.html>) provides more details about Safety Data Sheets.