

RTC SAFETY NEWS LETTER



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MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET (MSDS)

A MSDS is a written document providing you, the user, and emergency personnel with information and procedures required for proper handling and working with a chemical. Even though the formatting (how it looks on paper) differs from one MSDS to another, it usually contains information on: the chemical/physical properties of the product, potential hazards (health, flammability, storage, etc.), first aid, spill response, safe disposal, and other emergency actions.

A MSDS is for your use. You should be familiar with the hazards of a product that you use **BEFORE** you use it. Match the name of the chemical on the container (bottle, jar, bucket, drum) to the one on the MSDS, read the safe handling and storage instructions, as well as learn what to do in an emergency.

Seemingly safe products may be found to contain unforeseen hazards. Any chemical that has been approved for use at Naval Station, Great Lakes, has undergone a review process. One of the review steps is to submit the chemical's MSDS, which is then kept on file at the NAVSTA Safety Office and HAZMART.

Additional MSDS's must be readily available. If you want to view a MSDS when using chemicals, ask your supervisor. Consult with your supervisor if you have questions about the MSDS or chemicals in your spaces.