



# Material Safety Data Sheet WOOD DUST

## SECTION I - PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

**PRODUCT NAME(S):** Wood Dust  
**SYNONYMS:** Wood Flour, Sawdust, Sander Dust  
**CHEMICAL FAMILY:** Not Applicable  
**CHEMICAL FORMULA:** Not Applicable  
**CAS NUMBER:** None  
**THOMPSON RIVER LUMBER**  
**241 AIRPORT ROAD**  
**THOMPSON FALLS, MT 59873**

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## SECTION II - HAZARDOUS INGREDIENTS/ IDENTITY INFORMATION

| Chemical Name     | CAS# | Exposure Limits in Air <sup>(1)</sup> |      |                                  |                      |
|-------------------|------|---------------------------------------|------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
|                   |      | ACGIH - TLV                           |      | OSHA - PEL                       |                      |
|                   |      | TWA                                   | STEL | TWA                              | STEL                 |
| Softwoods         | None | 1.0 mg/m <sup>3</sup><br>Inhalable    | --   | 5 mg/m <sup>3</sup><br>Inhalable | 10 mg/m <sup>3</sup> |
| Western Red Cedar | None | 0.5 mg/m <sup>3</sup><br>Inhalable    | --   | 2.5 mg/m <sup>3</sup>            | --                   |
| Hardwoods         | None | 1.0 mg/m <sup>3</sup><br>Inhalable    | --   | 5 mg/m <sup>3</sup>              | 10 mg/m <sup>3</sup> |

<sup>(1)</sup> Although OSHA's Air Contaminant Rule, including OSHA's wood dust PELs, was struck down in *AFL-CIO v. OSHA*, 965 F.2d 962 (11th Cir. 1992), a number of states have incorporated those provisions in their state plans. The 1989 PELs and STELs are shown in the table above.

Wood Dust is now officially regulated as an organic dust under the Particulate Not Otherwise Regulated (PNOR) or Inert or Nuisance Dust categories as PELs noted under the Health Effects Information section of this MSDS. However, a number of states have integrated provisions of the 1989 standards in their state plans. Additionally, OSHA has announced that it may cite companies under the OSH Act General Duty clause under appropriate circumstances for non-compliance with the 1989 PELs.

## SECTION III - PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

### PHYSICAL DATA

**Boiling Point (@ 760 mm Hg)** ..... Not Applicable  
**Specific Gravity (H<sub>2</sub>O=1)** ..... Variable, depending on wood species and moisture content  
**Vapor Density (Air=1; 1 atm)** ..... Not Applicable  
**% Volatiles by Vol. @ 70°F (21°C)** ..... Not Applicable  
**Melting Point** ..... Not Applicable  
**Vapor Pressure (mm Hg)** ..... Not Applicable  
**Solubility in H<sub>2</sub>O (% by wt.)** ..... Not Applicable  
**pH:** ..... Not Applicable  
**Evaporation Rate (Butyl Acetate = 1)** ..... Not Applicable

### APPEARANCE AND ODOR

Wood Dust includes dust from all hard and soft woods. Wood dust consists of finely divided wood particles generated from manual or mechanical sawing, sanding, routing or chipping performed on wood. Wood chips are similar to wood dust, but coarser. The product is light or dark in color. Color and odor are dependent on the wood species and time since dust was generated.

## SECTION IV - FIRE & EXPLOSION DATA

**Flash Point (method used)** ..... Not Applicable  
**Flammable Limits** ..... LEL: See below under "Unusual Fire and Explosion Hazards"  
**UEL:** Not Applicable  
**Auto Ignition Temperature (F or C)** ..... 400°F-500°F (204°C-260°C)  
**Fire Extinguishing Media** ..... Procedures for a Class A fire-any Class ABC extinguishing method. Water, carbon dioxide, sand.  
**Special Fire Fighting Procedures** ..... Use water to wet down wood dust to reduce the likelihood of ignition or dispersion of dust into the air. Remove burned, charred or wet dust to open, secure area after fire is extinguished.  
**Unusual Fire & Explosion Hazards** ..... Depending on moisture content and more importantly, particle diameter, wood dust may explode in the presence of an ignition source. An airborne concentration of 40 grams (40,000 mg) of dust per cubic meter of air is often used as the LEL for wood dusts.

## SECTION V - REACTIVITY DATA

**Stability** ..... ( ) Unstable (x) Stable  
**Conditions to Avoid** ..... Avoid open flame. Product may ignite at temperatures in excess of 400°F (204°C).  
**Incompatibility (materials to avoid)** ..... Avoid contact with oxidizing agents and drying oils.  
**Hazardous Decomposition**  
**Or By-Products** ..... Thermal decomposition products include carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, aliphatic aldehydes, rosin acids, terpenes, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.  
**Hazardous Polymerization** ..... ( ) May Occur (X) Will Not Occur

## SECTION VI - HEALTH EFFECTS INFORMATION

**Primary Health Hazards** ..... The primary health hazard posed by this product is thought to be due to inhaling wood dust.  
**Primary Route(s) of Exposure** ..... Skin, Inhalation, Eye  
**Acute Health Hazards - Medical Conditions**  
**Generally Aggravated by Exposure** ..... Wood dust may aggravate preexisting respiratory conditions or allergies.  
**Chronic Health Hazards** ..... Wood dust(s), depending on the species, may cause allergic contact dermatitis with prolonged, repetitive contact, and respiratory sensitization after prolonged exposure to elevated dust levels.  
**Carcinogenicity Listing** ..... (X) NTP: Known human carcinogen.  
 (X) IARC: Carcinogen to Humans (Group 1). Wood dust has been alleged to cause nasal/paranasal sinus cancer (certain European hardwoods: oak and beech).  
 ( ) OSHA Regulated: Not a carcinogen.

**WOOD DUST** *continued*

**SECTION VII - PRECAUTIONS, SAFE HANDLING**

**STEPS TO BE TAKEN IN CASE MATERIAL IS RELEASED OR SPILLED:** Not applicable for product in purchased form. Wood dust generated from sawing, sanding, drilling or routing of this product may be vacuumed or shoveled for recovery or disposal. Avoid dusty conditions and provide good ventilation. Use NIOSH/MSHA approved respirator and goggles where ventilation is not possible.

**WASTE DISPOSAL METHOD:** If disposed of or discarded in its purchased form, incineration is preferable. Dry land disposal is acceptable in most states. It is, however, the user's responsibility to determine at the time of disposal whether your product meets EPA RCRA criteria for hazardous waste. Follow applicable federal, state and local regulations.

**PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN HANDLING AND STORAGE:** Wood dust may pose a combustible dust hazard. Keep away from ignition sources. Avoid eye contact. Avoid prolonged or repeated contact with skin. Avoid prolonged or repeated breathing of wood dust. Store in well-ventilated, dry place away from open flame.

**OTHER PRECAUTIONS:** A NIOSH/MSHA approved respirator and goggles should be worn when the allowable exposure limits may be exceeded. Avoid open flame and contact with oxidizing agents and drying oils.

**SECTION VIII - GENERALLY APPLICABLE CONTROL MEASURES**

**VENTILATION:**

**LOCAL EXHAUST -** Provide local exhaust as needed so that exposure limits are met.

**MECHANICAL (GENERAL) -** Provide general ventilation in processing and storage areas so that exposure limits are met.

**SPECIAL -** Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) recommended when suppressing fire.

**OTHER -** Not Applicable

**PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT:**

**RESPIRATORY PROTECTION:** A NIOSH/MSHA approved respirator is recommended when allowable exposure limits may be exceeded.

**PROTECTIVE GLOVES:** Not required. However, cloth, canvas or leather gloves are recommended to minimize potential mechanical irritation from handling product.

**EYE PROTECTION:** Not applicable for product in purchased form. Goggles or safety glasses are recommended when machining this product and in areas with high dust levels.

**OTHER PROTECTIVE CLOTHING OR EQUIPMENT:** Not applicable for product in purchased form. Outer garments may be desirable in extremely dusty areas.

**WORK/HYGIENE PRACTICES:** Follow good hygienic and housekeeping practices. Clean up areas where wood dust settles to avoid excessive accumulation of this combustible material. Minimize blow-down or other practices that generate high airborne dust concentrations.

**SECTION IX - EMERGENCY AND FIRST AID PROCEDURES**

**INGESTION** ..... Not applicable under normal use.

**EYES** ..... Wood dust may cause mechanical irritation. Treat dust in eye as foreign object. Flush with water to remove dust particles. Obtain medical help if irritation persists.

**SKIN CONTACT SKIN CONTACT** ..... Wood dust(s) of certain species can elicit allergic contact dermatitis in sensitized individuals, as well as mechanical irritation resulting in erythema and hives. Obtain medical help if rash, irritation or dermatitis persists.

**SKIN ABSORPTION** ..... Not known to occur under normal use.

**INHALATION** ..... Wood dust may cause unpleasant deposit/obstruction in the nasal passages, resulting in dryness of

nose, dry cough, sneezing and headaches. Remove to fresh air. Obtain medical help if persistent irritation, severe coughing or breathing difficulty occurs.

**MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

**AGGRAVATED BY EXPOSURE** ..... Wood dust may aggravate pre-existing respiratory conditions and allergies.

**SECTION X: TRANSPORTATION DATA**

This product is not considered hazardous as defined by 49 CFR 172.101 by the U.S. Department of Transportation.

DOT proper shipping name: ..... Not regulated\*

Hazard Class/Division Number:

ID Number:

Packing Group:

Label/Placard Required:

DOT Hazardous Substance:

\*Some states require load to be covered to transport.

**SECTION XI: REGULATORY INFORMATION**

**U.S. OSHA:** Wood products are not considered hazardous under the criteria of the Federal OSHA Hazardous Communication Standard 29 CFR 1910.1200. However, wood dusts generated by sawing, sanding or machining these products may be hazardous.

**SARA/CERCLA:** This product does not contain chemicals in concentrations that should require reporting under SARA 313.

**STATE RIGHT-TO-KNOW:**

**California -** Drilling, sawing, sanding or machining wood products generates wood dust, a substance known to the State of California to cause cancer.

**Pennsylvania -** When cut or otherwise machined, wood products may emit wood dust. Wood dust appears on Pennsylvania's Appendix A, Hazardous Substance List.

**New Jersey -** When cut or otherwise machined, wood products may emit wood dust. Wood dust appears on New Jersey's Environmental Hazardous Substance List.

**SECTION XII: USER'S RESPONSIBILITY**

The information contained in this Material Safety Data Sheet is based on the experience of occupational health and safety professionals and comes from sources believed to be accurate or otherwise technically correct. It is the user's responsibility to determine if this information is suitable for their applications and to follow safety precautions as may be necessary. The user has the responsibility to make sure that this sheet is the most up-to-date issue.

**SECTION XIII: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Definition of Common Terms:**

- ACGIH = American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists
- C = Ceiling Limit
- CAS# = Chemical Abstracts System Number
- EPA = U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- IARC = International Agency for Research on Cancer
- LEL = Lower Explosive Limit
- MSHA = Mining Safety and Health Administration
- NAP = Not Applicable
- NAV = Not Available
- NIOSH = National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health
- NTP = National Toxicology Program
- OSHA = Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- PEL = Permissible Exposure Limit
- RCRA = Resource Conservation and Recovery Act
- STEL = Short-Term Exposure Limit (15 minutes)
- TLV = Threshold Limit Value
- TWA = Time-Weighted Average (8 hours)