

# Methanol MSDS

## Section 1: Product Identification

Product Name:	Methanol (methyl alcohol, methyl hydrate, wood spirit, methyl hydroxide)		
Formula:	CH <sub>3</sub> OH	Health:	3
RTECS:	PC1400000	Flammability:	3
CAS #:	67-56-1	Reactivity:	0

## Section 2: Composition

Component	% (w/w)	Exposure Limits*	LD <sub>50</sub>	LC <sub>50</sub>
Methanol (CAS 67-56-1)	99-100	ACGIH: TWA 200 ppm; STEL 250 ppm, skin-potential for cutaneous absorption NIOSH: TWA 200 ppm, 260mg/m <sup>3</sup> ; IDLH 6000ppm OSHA-final PELs: TWA 200 ppm, 260mg/m <sup>3</sup> TLV basis, critical effects: neuropathy, vision, central nervous system	5628 mg/kg (oral/rat) 20 ml/kg (dermal/rabbit)	64000 ppm (inhalation/rat)

\*Exposure limits may vary from time to time and from one jurisdiction to another. Check with local regulatory agency for the exposure limits in your area.

### Section 3: Hazards Identification

#### Routes of Entry:

Skin Contact-Moderate

Eye Contact-Moderate

Ingestion-Major

Inhalation-  
Major

#### Effects of Short-Term (Acute) Exposure:

**Inhalation:** Inhalation of high airborne concentrations can also irritate mucous membranes, cause headaches, sleepiness, nausea, confusion, loss of consciousness, digestive and visual disturbances and even death.

**Note:** Odor threshold of methanol is several times higher than the TLV-TWA. Depending upon severity of poisoning and the promptness of treatment, survivors may recover completely or may have permanent blindness, vision disturbances and/or nervous system effects. Concentrations in air exceeding 1000 ppm may cause irritation of the mucous membranes.

**Skin Contact:** Methanol is moderately irritating to the skin. Methanol can be absorbed through the skin and harmful effects have been reported by this route of entry. Effects are similar to those described in "Inhalation."

**Eye Contact:** Methanol is a mild to moderate eye irritant. High vapor concentration or liquid contact with eyes causes irritation, tearing and burning.

**Ingestion:** Swallowing even small amounts of methanol could potentially cause blindness or death. Effects of sub lethal doses may be nausea, headache, abdominal pain, vomiting and visual disturbances ranging from blurred vision to light sensitivity.

**Effects of Long-Term (Chronic) Exposure:** Repeated exposure by inhalation or absorption may cause systemic poisoning, brain disorders, impaired vision and blindness. Inhalation may worsen conditions such as emphysema or bronchitis. Repeated skin contact may cause dermal irritation, dryness and cracking.

**Medical Conditions Aggravated By Exposure:** Emphysema or bronchitis.

#### Section 4: First Aid

**Eye Contact:** Remove contact lenses if worn. In case of contact, immediately flush eyes with plenty of clean running water for at least 15 minutes, lifting the upper and lower eyelids occasionally. Obtain medical attention.

**Skin Contact:** In case of contact, remove contaminated clothing. In a shower, wash affected areas with soap and water for at least 15 minutes. Seek medical attention if irritation occurs or persists. Wash clothing before reuse.

**Inhalation:** Remove to fresh air, restore or assist breathing if necessary. Obtain medical attention.

**Ingestion:** Swallowing methanol is potentially life threatening. Onset of symptoms may be delayed for 18 to 24 hours after digestion. If conscious and medical aid is not immediately available, do not induce vomiting. In actual or suspected cases of ingestion, transport to medical facility immediately.

***Note to physician:*** Acute exposure to methanol, either through ingestion or breathing high airborne concentrations can result in symptoms appearing between 40 minutes and 72 hours after exposure. Symptoms and signs are usually limited to CNS, eyes, and gastrointestinal tract. Because of the initial CNS's effects of headache, vertigo, lethargy and confusion, there may be an impression of ethanol intoxication. Blurred vision, decreased acuity, and photophobia are common complaints. Treatment with ipecac or lavage is indicated in any patient presenting within two hours of ingestion. A profound metabolic acidosis occurs in severe poisoning and serum bicarbonate levels are a more accurate measure of severity than serum methanol levels. Treatment protocols are available from most major hospitals and early collaboration with appropriate hospitals is recommended.

***Note:*** Emergency assistance may also be available from the local poison control center.

Section 5: Fire and Explosion Hazards	
Flash point:	11°C (TCC)
Autoignition temperature:	385°C (NFPA 1978), 470°C (Kirk-Othmer 1981; Ullmann 1975)
Lower Explosive Limit:	6% (NFPA, 1978)
Upper Explosion Limit:	36% (NFPA, 1978), 36.5% (Ullmann, 1975)
Sensitivity to Impact:	Low
Sensitivity to Static Discharge:	Low
Hazardous Combustion Products:	Toxic gases and vapors; oxides of carbon and formaldehyde.
Extinguishing Media:	Small fires: Dry chemical, CO <sub>2</sub> , water spray Large fires: Water spray, AFFF(R) (Aqueous Film Forming Foam (alcohol resistant)) type with either a 3% or 6% foam proportioning system.
<b>Fire Fighting Instructions:</b> Methanol burns with a clean clear flame that is almost invisible in daylight. Stay upwind! Isolate and restrict area access. Concentrations of greater than 25% methanol in water can be ignited. Use fine water spray or fog to control fire spread and cool adjacent structures or containers. Contain fire control water for later disposal. Fire fighters must wear full-face, positive-pressure, self-contained breathing apparatus or airline, and appropriate protective clothing. Protective fire-fighting structural clothing is not effective protection from methanol. Do not walk through spilled product.	

## Section 6: Accidental Release

**Overview:** Flammable liquid can burn without a visible flame. Release can cause an immediate risk of fire and explosion. Eliminate all ignition sources, stop leak, and use absorbent materials. If necessary, contain spill by diking. Fluorocarbon alcohol-resistant foams may be applied to spill to diminish vapor and fire hazard. Maximize methanol recovery for recycling or re-use. Restrict access to area until completion of cleanup. Ensure cleanup is conducted by trained personnel only. Wear adequate personal protection and remove all sources of ignition. Notify all governmental agencies as required by law.

**Personal Protection:** Full-face, positive-pressure self-contained breathing apparatus or airline, and protective clothing must be worn. Protective fire-fighting structural clothing is not effective protection from methanol.

**Environmental Precautions:** Biodegrades easily in water. Methanol in fresh or salt water may have serious effects on aquatic life. A study on methanol's toxic effects on sewage sludge bacteria reported little effect on digestion at 0.1%, while 0.5% methanol retarded digestion. Methanol will be broken down to carbon dioxide and water.

**Remedial Measures:** Flammable liquid. Release can cause an immediate fire/explosion hazard. Eliminate all sources of ignition, stop leak, and use absorbent materials. Collect liquid with explosion-proof pumps. Do not walk through spill product, as it may be on fire and not visible.

**Large Spills:** If necessary, contain spill by diking. Fluorocarbon alcohol-resistant foams may be applied to spill to diminish vapor and fire hazard. Maximize methanol recovery for recycling or reuse. Collect liquid with explosion-proof pumps.

**Small Spills:** Soak up spill with non-combustible absorbent material. Recover methanol and dilute with water to reduce fire hazard. Prevent spilled methanol from entering sewers, confined spaces, drains, or waterways. Restrict access for unprotected personnel. Put material in suitable, covered, labeled containers. Flush area with water.

## Section 7: Handling and Storage

**Handling Procedures:** No smoking or open flame in storage, use, or handling areas. Use explosion-proof electrical equipment. Ensure that proper electrical grounding procedures are in place.

**Storage:** Store in totally enclosed equipment that is designed to avoid ignition and human contact. Tanks must be grounded, vented, and should have vapor-emission controls. Tanks must be diked. Avoid storage with incompatible materials. Anhydrous methanol is non-corrosive to most metals at ambient temperatures except for lead, nickel, monel, cast iron, and high-silicon iron. Coatings of copper (or copper alloys), zinc (including galvanized steel), or aluminum are unsuitable for storage. These materials may be attacked slowly by the methanol. Storage tanks of welded construction are normally satisfactory. They should be designed and built in conformance with good engineering practice for the material being stored. While plastics can be used for short-term storage, they are generally not recommended for long-term storage due to deterioration effects and the subsequent risk of contamination.

**Corrosion rates for several construction materials:**

<0.508 mm/year	Cast iron, monel, lead, nickel
<0.051 mm/year	High silicon iron
Some attack	Polyethylene
Satisfactory	Neoprene, phenolic resins, polyesters, natural rubber, butyl rubber
Resistant	Polyvinyl chloride, unplasticized

## Section 8: Exposure Controls, Personal Protection

**Engineering Controls:** In confined areas, local and general ventilation should be provided to maintain airborne concentrations below permissible exposure limits. Ventilation systems must be designed according to approved engineering standards.

**Respiratory Protection:** NIOSH-approved air respirator when airborne concentrations exceed exposure limits.

**Skin protection:** Butyl and nitrile rubbers are recommended for gloves. Check with manufacturer. Wear chemical-resistant pants and jackets, preferably of butyl or nitrile rubber. Check with manufacturer.

**Eye and Face Protection:** Face shield and chemical splash goggles when transferring is taking place.

**Footwear:** Chemical-resistant and as specified by the workplace.

**Other:** Eyewash and showers should be located near work areas.

**Note:** PPE must not be considered a long-term solution to exposure control. PPE use must be accompanied by employer programs to properly select, maintain, clean, fit, and use. Consult a competent industrial hygiene resource to determine hazard potential and/or the PPE manufacturers to ensure adequate protection.

### Section 9: Physical and Chemical Properties

Appearance:	Liquid, clear, colorless	Boiling Point:	64.7°C @ 101.3 kPa
Odor:	Mild characteristic alcohol odor	Evaporation Rate:	4.1 (n-butyl acetate = 1)
Odor Threshold:	Detection: 4.2 – 5960 ppm (geometric mean) 160 ppm Recognition: 53 – 8940 ppm (geometric mean) 690 ppm	Solubility in Other Liquids:	Soluble in all proportions in other alcohols, esters, ketones, ethers, and most other organic solvents
pH:	Not applicable	Critical Temperature:	239.4°C
Vapor Pressure:	12.8 kPa @ 20°C	Partition Coefficient:	Log P (oct) = – 0.82
Freezing Point:	– 97.8°C	Relative Density:	0.791

### Section 10: Stability and Reactivity

Chemical Stability:	Yes
Incompatibility:	Yes. Avoid contact with strong oxidizers, strong mineral or organic acids, and strong bases. Contact with these materials may cause a violent or explosive reaction. May be corrosive to lead, aluminum, magnesium, and platinum.
Conditions of Reactivity:	Presence of incompatible materials and ignition sources.
Hazardous Decomposition Products:	Formaldehyde, carbon dioxide, and carbon monoxide.
Hazardous Polymerization:	Will not occur.

### Section 11: Toxicological Information

LD <sub>50</sub> :	5628 mg/kg (oral/rat), 20 ml/kg (dermal/rabbit)
LC <sub>50</sub> :	64000 ppm (rat)
Acute Exposure:	See Section 3
Chronic Exposure:	See Section 3
Exposure Limits:	See Section 3
Irritancy:	See Section 3
Sensitization:	No
Carcinogenicity:	Not listed by IARC, NTP, ACGIH, or OSHA as a carcinogen.
Teratogenicity:	No
Reproductive toxicity:	Reported to cause birth defects in rats exposed to 20,000 ppm
Mutagenicity:	Insufficient data
Synergistic products:	None known

## Section 12: Ecological Information

Environmental toxicity: Methanol in fresh or salt water may have serious effects on aquatic life. A study of methanol's toxic effects on sewage sludge bacteria reported little effect on digestion at 0.1%, while 0.5% methanol retarded digestion. Methanol will be broken down into carbon dioxide and water.

Biodegradability: Biodegrades easily in water.

## Section 13: Disposal Considerations

Review federal, provincial or state, and local government requirements before disposal. Store material for disposal as indicated in Section 7, Handling and Storage. Disposal by controlled incineration or by secure landfill may be acceptable.

## Section 14: Transport Information

Transport of Dangerous Goods (TDG and CLR):	Methanol, Class 3(6.1), UN1230, P.G. II Limited Quantity: ≤ 1 litres.
United States Department of Transport (49CFR) (Domestic Only):	Methanol, Class 3, UN 1230, P.G. II, (Domestic Only) (RQ 5000 lbs/2270 kg) Limited Quantity: ≤ 1 litres
International Air Transport Association (IATA):	Methanol, Class 3(6.1), UN1230, P.G. II Packaging Instruction: 305, 1 litre maximum per package.
International Maritime Organization (IMO):	Methanol, Class 3(6.1), UN1230, P.G. II, Flash Point = 12°C, EmS No. F-E, S-D, Stowage Category "B," Clear of living quarters.

## Section 15: Regulatory Information

### Canadian federal regulations

CEPA, domestic substances list:	Listed
WHMIS classification:	B2, D1A

### United States regulations

29CFR 1910.1200 (OSHA):	Hazardous
40CFR 116-117 (EPA):	Hazardous
40CFR 355, Appendices A and B:	Subject to Emergency Planning and Notification
40CFR 372 (SARA Title III):	Listed
40CFR 302 (CERCLA):	Listed

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