

# Potassium carbonate

sc-203206



The Power is Question

Material Safety Data Sheet

Hazard Alert Code Key: **EXTREME** **HIGH** **MODERATE** **LOW**

## Section 1 - CHEMICAL PRODUCT AND COMPANY IDENTIFICATION

### PRODUCT NAME

Potassium carbonate

### STATEMENT OF HAZARDOUS NATURE

CONSIDERED A HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE ACCORDING TO OSHA 29 CFR 1910.1200.

### NFPA



### SUPPLIER

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### EMERGENCY:

ChemWatch

Within the US & Canada: 877-715-9305

Outside the US & Canada: +800 2436 2255

(1-800-CHEMCALL) or call +613 9573 3112

### SYNONYMS

K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>, CO<sub>3</sub>.2K, potash, "carbonic acid; dipotassium salt", K-gran, "salt of tartar", "pearl ash"

## Section 2 - HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

### CHEMWATCH HAZARD RATINGS

	Min	Max
Flammability:	0	
Toxicity:	2	
Body Contact:	2	
Reactivity:	1	
Chronic:	2	

Min/Nil=0  
Low=1  
Moderate=2  
High=3  
Extreme=4



### CANADIAN WHMIS SYMBOLS



## EMERGENCY OVERVIEW

### RISK

Harmful if swallowed.

Irritating to eyes, respiratory system and skin.

### POTENTIAL HEALTH EFFECTS

#### ACUTE HEALTH EFFECTS

#### SWALLOWED

■ Accidental ingestion of the material may be harmful; animal experiments indicate that ingestion of less than 150 gram may be fatal or may produce serious damage to the health of the individual.

■ Acute potassium poisoning after swallowing is rare, because vomiting usually occurs and renal excretion is fast.

Potassium causes a slow, weak pulse, irregularities in heart rhythm, heart block and an eventual fall in blood pressure.

#### EYE

■ This material can cause eye irritation and damage in some persons.

■ Alkaline salts may be intensely irritating to the eyes and precautions should be taken to ensure direct eye contact is avoided.

#### SKIN

■ This material can cause inflammation of the skin on contact in some persons.

■ The material may accentuate any pre-existing dermatitis condition.

■ Solution of material in moisture on the skin, or perspiration, may markedly increase skin corrosion and accelerate tissue destruction.

■ Open cuts, abraded or irritated skin should not be exposed to this material.

■ Entry into the blood-stream, through, for example, cuts, abrasions or lesions, may produce systemic injury with harmful effects.

Examine the skin prior to the use of the material and ensure that any external damage is suitably protected.

#### INHALED

■ The material can cause respiratory irritation in some persons.

The body's response to such irritation can cause further lung damage.

■ Persons with impaired respiratory function, airway diseases and conditions such as emphysema or chronic bronchitis, may incur further disability if excessive concentrations of particulate are inhaled.

■ Not normally a hazard due to non-volatile nature of product.

#### CHRONIC HEALTH EFFECTS

■ Long-term exposure to respiratory irritants may result in disease of the airways involving difficult breathing and related systemic problems.

Limited evidence suggests that repeated or long-term occupational exposure may produce cumulative health effects involving organs or biochemical systems.

Long term exposure to high dust concentrations may cause changes in lung function i.e. pneumoconiosis; caused by particles less than 0.5 micron penetrating and remaining in the lung.

## Section 3 - COMPOSITION / INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

NAME	CAS RN	%
potassium carbonate	584-08-7	>98

## Section 4 - FIRST AID MEASURES

#### SWALLOWED

· If swallowed do NOT induce vomiting. · If vomiting occurs, lean patient forward or place on left side (head-down position, if possible) to maintain open airway and prevent aspiration.

#### EYE

■ If this product comes in contact with the eyes: · Wash out immediately with fresh running water. · Ensure complete irrigation of the eye by keeping eyelids apart and away from eye and moving the eyelids by occasionally lifting the upper and lower lids.

#### SKIN

■ If skin contact occurs: · Immediately remove all contaminated clothing, including footwear · Flush skin and hair with running water (and soap if available).

#### INHALED

· If fumes or combustion products are inhaled remove from contaminated area. · Lay patient down. Keep warm and rested.

## NOTES TO PHYSICIAN

- for poisons (where specific treatment regime is absent):

### BASIC TREATMENT

- Establish a patent airway with suction where necessary.
  - Watch for signs of respiratory insufficiency and assist ventilation as necessary.
- For potassium intoxications:
- Hyperkalemia, in patients with abnormal renal function, results from reduced renal excretion following intoxication.
  - The presence of electrocardiographic evidence of hyperkalemia or serum potassium levels exceeding 7.5 mE/L indicates a medical emergency requiring an intravenous line and constant cardiac monitoring.

## Section 5 - FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

Vapour Pressure (mmHG):	Not applicable.
Upper Explosive Limit (%):	Not applicable
Specific Gravity (water=1):	2.428
Lower Explosive Limit (%):	Not applicable

### EXTINGUISHING MEDIA

- There is no restriction on the type of extinguisher which may be used.
- Use extinguishing media suitable for surrounding area.

### FIRE FIGHTING

- Alert Emergency Responders and tell them location and nature of hazard.
- Wear breathing apparatus plus protective gloves for fire only.

### GENERAL FIRE HAZARDS/HAZARDOUS COMBUSTIBLE PRODUCTS

- Non combustible.
  - Not considered to be a significant fire risk, however containers may burn.
- Decomposes on heating and produces acrid and toxic fumes of: carbon monoxide (CO), carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), metal oxides, other pyrolysis products typical of burning organic material.
- May emit poisonous fumes.
- May emit corrosive fumes.
- Used as a component of dry powder chemical fire extinguishers,
- Reacts with fluorine gas at room temperature, generating incandescent temperatures.

### FIRE INCOMPATIBILITY

- Avoid contamination with oxidizing agents i.e. nitrates, oxidizing acids, chlorine bleaches, pool chlorine etc. as ignition may result.

### PERSONAL PROTECTION

- Glasses:  
Chemical goggles.
- Gloves:
- Respirator:  
Particulate

## Section 6 - ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

### MINOR SPILLS

- Clean up all spills immediately.
- Avoid contact with skin and eyes.

### MAJOR SPILLS

- Moderate hazard.
- CAUTION: Advise personnel in area.
- Alert Emergency Responders and tell them location and nature of hazard.

## Section 7 - HANDLING AND STORAGE

### PROCEDURE FOR HANDLING

- Limit all unnecessary personal contact.
- Wear protective clothing when risk of exposure occurs.

### RECOMMENDED STORAGE METHODS

- DO NOT use aluminum or galvanized containers.
- Glass container.
- Polyethylene or polypropylene container.
  - Check all containers are clearly labelled and free from leaks.

## STORAGE REQUIREMENTS

- Store in original containers.
- Keep containers securely sealed.

## Section 8 - EXPOSURE CONTROLS / PERSONAL PROTECTION

### EXPOSURE CONTROLS

Source	Material	TWA ppm	TWA mg/m <sup>3</sup>	STEL ppm	STEL mg/m <sup>3</sup>	Peak ppm	Peak mg/m <sup>3</sup>	TWA F/CC	Notes
Canada - Ontario Occupational Exposure Limits	potassium carbonate (Particles (Insoluble or Poorly Soluble) Not Otherwise)		10 (I)						
Canada - British Columbia Occupational Exposure Limits	potassium carbonate (Particles (Insoluble or Poorly Soluble) Not Otherwise Classified (PNOC))		10 (N)						
Canada - Ontario Occupational Exposure Limits	potassium carbonate (Specified (PNOS) / Particules (insolubles ou peu solubles) non précisées par ailleurs)		3 (R)						
US - Tennessee Occupational Exposure Limits - Limits For Air Contaminants	potassium carbonate (Particulates not otherwise regulated Respirable fraction)		5						
US - California Permissible Exposure Limits for Chemical Contaminants	potassium carbonate (Particulates not otherwise regulated Respirable fraction)		5						(n)
US - Oregon Permissible Exposure Limits (Z-1)	potassium carbonate (Particulates not otherwise regulated (PNOR) (f) Total Dust)		10						Bold print identifies substances for which the Oregon Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs) are different than the federal Limits. PNOR means "particles not otherwise regulated."

US - Michigan Exposure Limits for Air Contaminants	potassium carbonate (Particulates not otherwise regulated, Respirable dust)	5	
US - Oregon Permissible Exposure Limits (Z-1)	potassium carbonate (Particulates not otherwise regulated (PNOR) (f) Respirable Fraction)	5	Bold print identifies substances for which the Oregon Permissible Exposure Limits (PELs) are different than the federal Limits. PNOR means "particles not otherwise regulated."
US - Wyoming Toxic and Hazardous Substances Table Z1 Limits for Air Contaminants	potassium carbonate (Particulates not otherwise regulated (PNOR)(f)-Respirable fraction)	5	
Canada - Prince Edward Island Occupational Exposure Limits	potassium carbonate (Particles (Insoluble or Poorly Soluble) [NOS] Inhalable particles)	10	See Appendix B current TLV/BEI Book

ENDOELTABLE

**PERSONAL PROTECTION**



**RESPIRATOR**

- particulate.

**EYE**

- Safety glasses with side shields.
- Chemical goggles.

**HANDS/FEET**

- Suitability and durability of glove type is dependent on usage. Important factors in the selection of gloves include: such as:
  - frequency and duration of contact,
  - chemical resistance of glove material,
  - glove thickness and
  - dexterity

Select gloves tested to a relevant standard (e.g. Europe EN 374, US F739).

- When prolonged or frequently repeated contact may occur, a glove with a protection class of 5 or higher (breakthrough time greater than 240 minutes according to EN 374) is recommended.
- When only brief contact is expected, a glove with a protection class of 3 or higher (breakthrough time greater than 60 minutes according to EN 374) is recommended.
- Contaminated gloves should be replaced.

Gloves must only be worn on clean hands. After using gloves, hands should be washed and dried thoroughly. Application of a non-perfumed moisturiser is recommended.

Experience indicates that the following polymers are suitable as glove materials for protection against undissolved, dry solids, where

abrasive particles are not present.

- polychloroprene
- nitrile rubber
- butyl rubber
- fluorocautchouc
- polyvinyl chloride

Gloves should be examined for wear and/ or degradation constantly.

#### OTHER

- Overalls.
- P.V.C. apron.
- Barrier cream.
- Skin cleansing cream.
- Eye wash unit.

#### ENGINEERING CONTROLS

- Local exhaust ventilation is required where solids are handled as powders or crystals; even when particulates are relatively large, a certain proportion will be powdered by mutual friction.
- If in spite of local exhaust an adverse concentration of the substance in air could occur, respiratory protection should be considered.

## Section 9 - PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

### PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Solid.

Mixes with water.

State	Divided solid	Molecular Weight	138.21
Melting Range (°F)	1636	Viscosity	Not Applicable
Boiling Range (°F)	Not applicable.	Solubility in water (g/L)	Miscible
Flash Point (°F)	Not Applicable	pH (1% solution)	11.6 (10% soln.)
Decomposition Temp (°F)	1636	pH (as supplied)	Not applicable
Autoignition Temp (°F)	Not applicable	Vapour Pressure (mmHG)	Not applicable.
Upper Explosive Limit (%)	Not applicable	Specific Gravity (water=1)	2.428
Lower Explosive Limit (%)	Not applicable	Relative Vapor Density (air=1)	Not applicable.
Volatile Component (%vol)	Negligible.	Evaporation Rate	Not applicable

### APPEARANCE

White, granular, translucent odourless, hygroscopic powder; soluble in water with liberation of heat forming a strongly alkaline solution. Insoluble in alcohol. Decomposes at melting point.

## Section 10 - CHEMICAL STABILITY

### CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO INSTABILITY

- Presence of incompatible materials.
- Product is considered stable.

### STORAGE INCOMPATIBILITY

- Metals and their oxides or salts may react violently with chlorine trifluoride and bromine trifluoride.
- These trifluorides are hypergolic oxidisers. They ignites on contact (without external source of heat or ignition) with recognised fuels - contact with these materials, following an ambient or slightly elevated temperature, is often violent and may produce ignition.
- The state of subdivision may affect the results.
- In presence of moisture, the material is corrosive to aluminium, zinc and tin producing highly flammable hydrogen gas.

For incompatible materials - refer to Section 7 - Handling and Storage.

## Section 11 - TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

potassium carbonate

### TOXICITY AND IRRITATION

POTASSIUM CARBONATE:

- unless otherwise specified data extracted from RTECS - Register of Toxic Effects of Chemical Substances.

TOXICITY

IRRITATION

Oral (Rat) LD50: 1870 mg/kg

Nil Reported

■ Asthma-like symptoms may continue for months or even years after exposure to the material ceases. This may be due to a non-allergenic condition known as reactive airways dysfunction syndrome (RADS) which can occur following exposure to high levels of highly irritating compound. Key criteria for the diagnosis of RADS include the absence of preceding respiratory disease, in a non-atopic individual, with abrupt onset of persistent asthma-like symptoms within minutes to hours of a documented exposure to the irritant. A reversible airflow pattern, on spirometry, with the presence of moderate to severe bronchial hyperreactivity on methacholine challenge testing and the lack of minimal lymphocytic inflammation, without eosinophilia, have also been included in the criteria for diagnosis of RADS. RADS (or asthma) following an irritating inhalation is an infrequent disorder with rates related to the concentration of and duration of exposure to the irritating substance. Industrial bronchitis, on the other hand, is a disorder that occurs as result of exposure due to high concentrations of irritating substance (often particulate in nature) and is completely reversible after exposure ceases. The disorder is characterised by dyspnea, cough and mucus production.

## Section 12 - ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

No data

### Ecotoxicity

Ingredient	Persistence: Water/Soil	Persistence: Air	Bioaccumulation	Mobility
potassium carbonate	No Data Available	No Data Available		

## Section 13 - DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

### Disposal Instructions

All waste must be handled in accordance with local, state and federal regulations.

‡ Puncture containers to prevent re-use and bury at an authorized landfill.

Legislation addressing waste disposal requirements may differ by country, state and/ or territory. Each user must refer to laws operating in their area. In some areas, certain wastes must be tracked.

A Hierarchy of Controls seems to be common - the user should investigate:

- Reduction
- Reuse
- Recycling
- Disposal (if all else fails)

This material may be recycled if unused, or if it has not been contaminated so as to make it unsuitable for its intended use. Shelf life considerations should also be applied in making decisions of this type. Note that properties of a material may change in use, and recycling or reuse may not always be appropriate.

DO NOT allow wash water from cleaning equipment to enter drains. Collect all wash water for treatment before disposal.

- Recycle wherever possible.
- Consult manufacturer for recycling options or consult Waste Management Authority for disposal if no suitable treatment or disposal facility can be identified.

## Section 14 - TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

NOT REGULATED FOR TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS: DOT, IATA, IMDG

## Section 15 - REGULATORY INFORMATION

**potassium carbonate (CAS: 584-08-7,6381-79-9) is found on the following regulatory lists;**

"Canada Domestic Substances List (DSL)", "Canada Ingredient Disclosure List (SOR/88-64)", "Canada Toxicological Index Service - Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System - WHMIS (English)", "CODEX General Standard for Food Additives (GSFA) - Additives Permitted for Use in Food in General, Unless Otherwise Specified, in Accordance with GMP", "International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) - High Production Volume List", "OECD Representative List of High Production Volume (HPV) Chemicals", "US DOE Temporary Emergency Exposure Limits (TEELs)", "US Food Additive Database", "US Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) - Chemical Substance Inventory"

## Section 16 - OTHER INFORMATION

### LIMITED EVIDENCE

■ Cumulative effects may result following exposure\*.

\* (limited evidence).

### **Ingredients with multiple CAS Nos**

Ingredient Name CAS potassium carbonate 584-08-7, 6381-79-9

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■ Classification of the preparation and its individual components has drawn on official and authoritative sources as well as independent review by the Chemwatch Classification committee using available literature references.

A list of reference resources used to assist the committee may be found at:

[www.chemwatch.net/references](http://www.chemwatch.net/references).

■ The (M)SDS is a Hazard Communication tool and should be used to assist in the Risk Assessment. Many factors determine whether the reported Hazards are Risks in the workplace or other settings. Risks may be determined by reference to Exposures Scenarios. Scale of use, frequency of use and current or available engineering controls must be considered.

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