

fact sheet



phosphoric acid

What is Phosphoric Acid?

Phosphoric acid is a clear green, viscous, oily and odorless inorganic mineral acid.

How is Phosphoric Acid used?

Phosphoric acid is used in the production of agricultural fertilizers and specialty metals. It is also used for making products such as dyes, fungicides and fire retardants and in food products such as animal feed and soft drinks.

What are the potential hazards?

Phosphoric acid can be corrosive to all tissues, including the skin, eyes, nose, mucous membranes, and respiratory and gastrointestinal tracts. The eyes are particularly sensitive and blindness can result from contact with this product.

The severity of the health effects depends on how strong the solution is (concentration), how long the contact lasts (duration) and, in the case of skin burns, how extensive the area of contact is. Mild exposures to phosphoric acid can cause irritation, while severe and fatal burns can occur with extensive skin exposure. Swallowing phosphoric acid can cause burns to the mouth and throat, and damage to the gastrointestinal tract. Inhaling phosphoric acid can cause a range of effects, including tickling in the nose and throat, coughing, sneezing, bronchospasm, or even pulmonary edema (fluid in the lungs).

Is Phosphoric Acid flammable or explosive?

Phosphoric acid is not flammable or explosive. However, it can react with many metals to generate flammable and explosive hydrogen gas.

What are the Emergency Response procedures?

In the event of a spill or accidental discharge, the fire department will isolate the area of the spill and try to contain the spill to prevent further leakage. The spill itself will be absorbed with an inert dry material. It is possible that sodium carbonate or crushed limestone will be added to the spill to neutralize the acid.

What should you do if you are exposed to Phosphoric Acid?

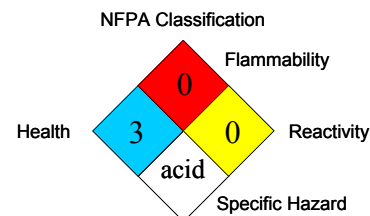
For eye contact:

- Check for and remove contact lenses. **IMMEDIATELY** flush eyes with running water for at least 15 minutes, keeping eyelids open. Seek immediate medical attention.

For skin contact:

- Immediately flush skin with water and removing contaminated clothing and shoes. Use warm water if available and continue flushing for at least 15 minutes. Obtain medical attention.

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Where can I get more information?

For more information on this product, or other Agrium products, please call Agrium directly at (403) 225-7000.

Information can also be found at the following websites:

- **Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR):**
www.atsdr.cdc.gov

- **Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA):** www.osha.gov

- **Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety:** www.ccohs.ca

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For minor inhalation:

- Loosen tight clothing. Rest in a well ventilated area. Give artificial respiration if breathing stops. Obtain immediate medical attention.

For severe inhalation:

- Use proper respiratory protection to evacuate affected individuals to a safe area as soon as possible. Loosen tight clothing around the person's neck and waist. If breathing is difficult administer oxygen. If the person is not breathing, perform artificial respiration and obtain immediate medical attention.

For ingestion:

- Do not induce vomiting. Careful removal of the substance from the stomach by medical personnel is required. Call a physician or poison control center and seek immediate medical attention. If tolerated and victim is conscious, give no more than 1 cup of milk or water to rinse the mouth and throat and dilute the stomach contents. No more than 8 ounces (1 cup) in adults and 4 ounces (1/2 cup) in children are recommended to minimize the risk of vomiting.

What should you do in the event of a spill?

Follow any special instructions given over the radio, T.V., or by someone in authority. If there is a fire or an explosion, stay away from the site. Follow standard, marked emergency routes or directions from police to travel to your destination. ■