

# SAFETY DATA SHEET

## 1. MANUFACTURER / SUPPLIER

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## 2. PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

MDPE, LDPE, Polythene Films, Gas Barriers, Damp Proof Membranes & General Purpose Sheeting.

## 3. ENVIRONMENT, HANDLING & STORAGE

Loose polythene waste is unsightly and a danger to wildlife. Care must be taken to clean up all polythene scrap lengths and waste into an appropriate receptacle.

The handling of polythene films does not present any unusual hazards, although heavier rolls require good lifting techniques or adequate lifting equipment.

Polythene waste and scrap lengths should be placed in appropriate receptacles and not left lying on the ground as this could cause a slipping/tripping hazard, which could lead to injury.

Bulk pallets of rolls should be strapped and stretch wrapped securely for transport and storage. Storage of polythene films should be shielded from direct sunlight.

Once packaging/strapping is removed, care should be taken as rolls can slip and cause injury.

## 4. HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

There are no specific hazards from MDPE, LDPE polythene to health and safety when used for their intended purpose, in accordance with good standards of industrial hygiene and safe working practice.

**TOXICITY;** MDPE and LDPE polythene are chemically non-reactive and are regarded as being biologically inert, and can be regarded as harmless.

**STATIC;** Polythene film can acquire static electrical charges under certain conditions. Static electrical sparks are potentially dangerous in areas where flame or explosion hazards exist.

**SKIN CONTACT;** Isolated cases of dermic symptoms have been associated with handling plastic films, which have been attributed to very rare forms of allergy.



## 5. FIRST AID MEASURES

- EYE CONTACT;** In the event of polythene particles entering the eye, flush copiously with clean, fresh water. If irritation continues, seek medical attention.
- INGESTION;** Although the product described above is regarded as inert, other polythene films may contain additives that may be harmful and ingestion is not recommended. In the unlikely event of accidental ingestion of polythene film, flake or dust, seek medical attention.
- SKIN CONTACT;** Wear personal protective gloves and use barrier creams to eliminate dermic symptoms. In extreme cases, personnel concerned should be removed from such an environment.

## 6. FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

- EXTINGUISHING MEDIA;** Use water spray, foam, dry chemical or carbon dioxide.
- UNSUITABLE EXTINGUISHING;** DO NOT use direct water jets in the early stages of extinguishing a fire as; this may help to spread the flames. DO NOT use water extinguishers in close proximity to live electrical installations.
- SPECIAL HAZARDS OF PRODUCT;** Hazardous combustion products may include carbon monoxide and small quantities of various hydrocarbons and aldehydes.
- FIRE FIGHTING;** Seek advice from local Fire Authority.

## 7. FLAMMABILITY

- COMMENTS;** When polythene is heated, melting will occur at 115 °C - 150 °C, Decomposition will commence at about 300 °C. When heated above this temperature in poorly ventilated areas, polythene films will pyrolyse oxidatively to produce carbon monoxide and a small amount of various hydrocarbons and aldehydes. These gases may ignite and cause combustion, molten polythene flows freely and could ignite other flammable materials in close proximity. The smoke from extinguished fires will still contain appreciable quantities of carbon monoxide, acrolein and other toxic aldehydes.
- AUTO IGNITION TEMPERATURE;** 350 °C
- FLASH POINT;** Above 300 °C decomposition occurs and a flash of fumes may occur.
- EXPLOSIVE PROPERTIES;** High dust concentrations have a potential for combustion or explosion. Dust explosion data; minimum ignition temperature 400 °C.
- PROTECTION OF FIRE FIGHTERS;** Fire fighters should wear self-contained positive pressure breathing apparatus (SCBA) and full turnout gear.



## **8. WASTE DISPOSAL**

Scrap polythene may be disposed of at approved landfill sites or by incineration under approved conditions.

Scrap polythene film is recyclable and should be segregated from other waste, and may be returned to your supplier or specialists in the collection of plastics.

Contact your local Waste Disposable Authority, if in doubt about your legal requirements for the handling and storage of all controlled wastes under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, 'Duty of Care Regulations'

## **9. INFORMATION SUPPLIED**

The information contained in this Health and Safety Data document relates only to the material described and is not valid for such material used in combination with any other materials or in any other process. Such information is, to the best of the company's knowledge and belief, accurate and reliable.

However, no representation, warranty or guarantee is made to its accuracy, reliability or completeness.

It is the responsibility of the user to satisfy himself as to the suitability and completeness of such information for his own particular use.

