

## PRODUCT BACKGROUNDER

# **SURPASS® Polyethylene - Not Coloured (All Grades)**

Important! For detailed information on this product and emergency measures, obtain the country-specific Safety Data Sheet (SDS) on the Product Finder. In the case of an emergency, please call our 24-hour hotline at 1-800-561-6682 or 1-403-314-8767.

SURPASS Polyethylene may also be called: HDPE, LLDPE, MDPE Polyethylene resins, ethylene polymers and ethylene octene copolymers.

#### **Product/Substance Use:**

- This product is manufactured at NOVA Chemicals' Joffre, Alberta facility. SURPASS Polyethylene is shipped nationally and internationally in bags, bulk boxes, bulk trucks, rail hopper cars and marine containers.
- Linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE) and medium-density polyethylene (MDPE) resins are used in the production of flexible food
  packaging, shrink-wrap, stretch film, overwrap films, artificial turf, and small rotational molded tanks. High-density polyethylene (HDPE)
  resins are used in the production of food packaging, barrier films, large rotational molded tanks, children's toys, and molded caps and
  closures.

#### **Characteristics and Safe Handling:**

- This product is non-hazardous as shipped, however, if small particles are generated during further processing, handling or by other means, polyethylene may form combustible dust concentrations in air.
- Polyethylene is an inert and chemically neutral material and is not classified as dangerous goods or hazardous materials for transportation.
- This product is a solid, white/colourless/translucent plastic pellet or granular powder, with a minimal, mild odour.
- Buildup of fine dusts may create an explosive mixture with air. In view of this, precautions should be taken to prevent the buildup of
  static electricity in industrial processing. Any equipment used in areas of handling or storage of the product must be grounded for
  control of static electricity and kept free of powders and dust buildup. Product should be stored away from potential ignition sources.
- The product will burn at high temperatures and can emit irritating smoke similar to that produced by burning wood but is not considered flammable. If heated, this product may emit various waxes and hydrocarbons as well as carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and small amounts of other irritating organic vapours.
- These resins will float on water and can be widely distributed and persistent in land and water systems. Any release to land or water must be isolated, contained and recovered or cleaned up properly by trained and equipped personnel.

### **Health and Safety Information:**

- Wear all recommended personal protective equipment if any contact with this product is likely. Immediately remove and clean any contaminated clothing prior to reuse.
- Contact with fine dusts and heated fumes may cause eye, skin and respiratory system irritation. Get medical advice/attention.
- Contact with hot, molten material may cause severe thermal burns and possible permanent injury or blindness. Immediately call a POISON CENTER/doctor if burned by molten polymer.
- If accidentally swallowed: Do NOT induce vomiting and immediately call a POISON CENTER/doctor.
- Spilled product may create a dangerous slipping hazard. Clean up and recover any loose pellets. Do not walk on deep piles of pellets in storage vessels or in a contained area to avoid risk of falling and possible suffocation. For further guidance, see the NOVA Chemicals Polyethylene Spill Response Checklist located at <a href="https://www.novachem.com/sustainability/safety">www.novachem.com/sustainability/safety</a>.
- Exposure to this product in inert form is not known to cause any long-term health effects.

#### **Environmental Information:**

- This product is non-toxic, is insoluble in water and has not been found to migrate through soils. Product will float on water and can become widely distributed and persistent in land and water systems. Polyethylene pellets released to water may accumulate in the digestive systems of some sea birds and aquatic life causing injury and possible death by starvation. The resins are not expected to bioconcentrate (accumulate in the food chain) due to their high molecular weight. Pellets do not degrade in soil or in landfill and should be fully recovered from land spills.
- SURPASS polyethylene will not biodegrade readily. This product will slowly change in the presence of sunlight but will not fully breakdown.
- Most polyethylene products can be collected and recycled, and NOVA Chemicals encourages the recycling of all polyethylene
  products where appropriate recycling facilities exist. Unrecyclable products, including polyethylene, can also be converted by recovery
  processes into heat, electricity, chemicals, and new plastics. Discarded polyethylene products can be safely disposed of in public
  landfills, as they do not break down into hazardous gases or other toxic compounds.
- Associated wastes may be regulated in Canada and in the United States. Ensure all applicable regulations are met.

Updated: November 2, 2020

For more information on this, or any other NOVA Chemicals' product, please contact us at the nearest location below during business hours or visit our website at <a href="https://www.novachemicals.com">www.novachemicals.com</a>:

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