

## PRODUCT BACKGROUNDER

### Expandable Polystyrene

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

May also be called: EPS, Foamable Polystyrene, DYLITE® EPS

#### Product/Substance Use:

- This product is manufactured by NOVA Chemicals' Beaver Valley (Monaca, PA) and Painesville (Painesville, OH) facilities.
- This plastic resin is used in the manufacture of protective packaging, insulation, food packaging, and cups.

#### Characteristics and Safe Handling:

- Product is a white bead (0.25-2mm diameter) with a slight hydrocarbon odor.
- This product can release pentane, a gas that is highly flammable in the presence of open flames, lit cigarettes, sparks, static electricity discharges, or heat. This pentane vapor, because it is heavier than air, may accumulate in low spots such as trenches, sumps, and in confined areas such as trucks, trailers, containers, stairwells or storage spaces. Provide adequate ventilation to avoid vapor buildup.
- Build-up of fine dusts may form an explosive mixture in air. 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 build-up. Product should be stored away from potential ignition sources.
- This product may emit styrene, oxides of carbon, and other toxic gases at elevated temperatures.
- This product is regulated as a hazardous material/dangerous goods for transportation.

#### Health and Safety Information:

- Because Expandable Polystyrene can release a flammable gas, the principal safety hazard is fire. Eliminate all sources of ignition. Provide adequate ventilation.
- Shipping containers, trucks and trailers should be ventilated for at least 15 minutes prior to unloading.
- Avoid inhalation and ingestion. This product may release vapors that are irritating to the eyes, nose, throat, and skin. Exposure to vapors may also cause headache, nausea, shortness of breath, and cough. Seek medical attention if symptoms develop or persist.
- Wear all recommended personal protective equipment if any contact with this material is likely.
- Avoid pellet contact with skin and eyes. Mechanical rubbing may cause irritation. Seek medical attention if symptoms develop or persist.
- Contact with hot or molten material may cause severe thermal burns and in extreme contact, possible permanent injury or blindness.
- Spilled product may be a slipping hazard. Clean up and recover any loose pellets. Do not walk on deep piles of pellets in storage vessels or in any contained area to avoid risk of falling and possible suffocation.

#### Environmental Information:

- This product is expected to be non-toxic, but small particles may have physical effects on terrestrial and aquatic organisms. Blowing agents may be hazardous to aquatic life. Expected to be inherently non-biodegradable.
- If spilled, prevent entry into sewers, basements or confined areas; dike if needed. Material may sink or float in water and may be persistent in aquatic and terrestrial systems.
- Pellets do not degrade in soils or in landfill and should be fully recovered from land spills. Attempt to reuse/recycle where possible. Use appropriate non-sparking tools to collect and place spilled material into a recovery container. Product should not be considered a hazardous waste if it is discarded, however, federal, state/provincial, and local environmental regulations should be referred to prior to disposal.
- As with other inert materials that are not readily digestible, pellets may accumulate in the digestive systems of birds and aquatic life, causing injury and possible death by starvation.
- This product is considered to have little potential for bioaccumulation or food chain concentration.

*Last update: January 19, 2010*

*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 [www.novachemicals.com](http://www.novachemicals.com):*

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