

PRODUCT BACKGROUNDER

Polyethylene

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: NOVAPOL® resins, SCLAIR® resins, SURPASS® resins, (s)HDPE, LDPE, VLDPE, (s)LLDPE, (s)LMDPE, (s)MDPE, ethylene polymers, ethylene butene copolymers, ethylene hexene copolymers, and ethylene octene copolymers.

Product/Substance Use:

- This product is manufactured at NOVA Chemicals' Joffre, Alberta, St. Clair Township, Ontario (Moore Site) and Corunna, Ontario (St. Clair River Site) facilities. Polyethylene is shipped nationally and internationally in bags, bulk cartons, hopper trucks, rail hopper cars and marine containers.
- This plastic resin is used to make a wide range of extruded plastic films, sheet or pipe. It can also be moulded into bottles, containers, lids and other plastic items.

Characteristics and Safe Handling:

- This product is not hazardous and is not regulated in the workplace or in transportation.
- This product is a solid, white pellet or granular material, with a slight sweet odour.
- Buildup 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 buildup. Product should be stored away from potential ignition sources.
- Product is not flammable but will burn on prolonged exposure to flame or high temperatures and produces irritating smoke. If heated, this product may emit various waxes and hydrocarbons as well as carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide and small amounts of irritating organic vapours.
- Material will float on water. 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:

- Contact with fine dusts and heated fumes may cause irritation to eyes, skin and the respiratory system. Seek medical attention if symptoms develop or persist.
- Contact with hot, molten material may cause severe thermal burns and in extreme contact, possible permanent injury or blindness. Seek immediate medical attention if burned by molten polymer.
- If accidentally swallowed, DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING and seek immediate medical attention.
- Wear all recommended personal protective equipment if any contact with this material is likely. Immediately remove and clean any contaminated clothing prior to reuse.
- Spilled product may cause 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.
- 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 aquatic and terrestrial systems. Polyethylene pellets may accumulate in the digestive systems of birds and aquatic life, causing injury and possible death by starvation.
- Polyethylene will not biodegrade readily in the environment unless it has first been chemically modified by heat or chemical action to reduce the molecular size. This product will slowly change in the presence of sunlight, but will not fully breakdown. Product buried in landfill has been found to be stable over time. No toxic degradation products are known to be produced.
- Polyethylene pellets should be fully recovered from any land or water spills. Use appropriate tools to collect and place spilled material into recovery containers. Attempt to reuse/recycle where possible.
- Associated wastes may be regulated in Canada and in the United States. Ensure all applicable regulations are met.

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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:

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