



*"Turning wood into  
what you need!"*

PO Box 268  
New Vineyard, ME 04956  
Phone: 207.652.2441  
Fax: 207.652.2406  
www.mainewoodconcepts.com

March 2008

Dear Valued Customer:

OSHA has revised its hazard communication standard, which now classifies as a hazardous chemical "wood or wood products which have been treated with a hazardous chemical covered by this standard, **AND WOOD WHICH MAY BE SUBSEQUENTLY SAWED AND CUT, GENERATING DUST.**" As a result, we are required by law to inform you of the potential dangers associated with exposure to wood dust. These potential dangers include possible skin and eye irritation, respiratory or other chronic or irreversible tissue damage, and narcosis of sufficient degree to increase the likelihood of accidental injury, impair self-rescue or materially reduce work efficiency. We want to emphasize that these potential maladies vary greatly according to wood species, type and level of exposure, and duration of exposure. Adequate ventilation and cleanliness in any woodworking area greatly reduces the incidence of any of these potential problems. The particulars of the hazards of wood dust and suggested handling methods are outlined in the enclosed updated Material Safety Data Sheet.

This is being sent to you (perhaps again) because our database is not complete and up-to-date.  
Please keep this in your files for future reference (plain items only).

Very truly yours,

*Donette Maynard*

Donette Maynard  
Safety Director

Enclosure:     1 MSDS  
                  1 Label



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## MATERIAL SAFETY DATA

**Product shipped:** Custom Wood Turnings

**Product Name:** Wood dust, Hardwoods & Softwoods

Examples: Oak, Maple, Hickory, Beech Poplar, Birch, Mahogany, Walnut, Ash, Pine, etc.; OHS88900

**CERCLA RATINGS (Scale 0-3):** Health = 3, Fire = 3, Reactivity = 0, Persistence = 0

**NFPA Ratings (Scale 0-4):** Health = 3, Fire = 3, Reactivity = 0

### Components and Contaminants

**Component:** Wood Dust (general) Hardwoods, Softwoods, Special Note: Western Red Cedar

**Percent:** 100.0

**Exposure Limits:** Hardwood & Softwood Dust

**Dust -Hardwood & Softwood: Softwood:** OSHA PEL\* - 15mg/m<sup>3</sup> 8 hour TWA-- (Total ACGIH TLV - 5mg/m<sup>3</sup> 8 hour TWA-- Dust

**Hardwood:** OSHA PEL\* - 15mg/m<sup>3</sup> 8 hour TWA-- Per Cubic ACGIH TLV - 1mg/m<sup>3</sup> 8 hour TWA-- Meter.)

Respirable fraction 5mg per cubic meter.

\*Both Hardwood and Softwood.

**special note:** Listed as particulates not otherwise regulated.

### Emergency Telephone No.

(800) 424-9300 Chemtrec

### Physical Data

Description: Dust of varying size, odor, texture, and color.



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## MATERIAL SAFETY DATA

### *Fire and Explosion Data*

**Fire and Explosion Hazard:** The finely divided wood dust presents a dangerous fire and explosion hazard when exposed to heat or flame. The larger dusts present a moderate to dangerous fire and explosion hazard when exposed to heat or flame.

**Fire Fighting Media:** Dry Chemical, carbon dioxide, water spray or foam (1984 emergency response guidebook, DOT P 5800.3). For larger fires, use water spray, fog or foam (1984 emergency response guidebook, DOT P 5800.3).

**Fire Fighting:** Move container from fire area if possible. Do not scatter spilled material with more water than needed for fire control. Dike fire control water for later disposal (1984 emergency response guidebook, DOT P 5800.3, Guide Page 31). Use agents suitable for type of surrounding fire. Avoid breathing hazardous vapors, keep upwind.

### *Toxicity*

Positive human carcinogen (IARC, NTP) (furniture and cabinet making industry). An excess risk of nasal adenocarcinoma has been reported in workers in this industry. This excess risk occurs mainly in those that are exposed to wood dusts.

Some studies have suggested that the incidence of nasal cancers and Hodgkin's disease may be increased in workers in the lumber and sawmill (including logging), carpentry and joinery trades and the pulp and paper industries. Wood dust is an eye, skin and mucous membrane irritant and a skin sensitizer.

### *Health Effects and First Aid*

**Inhalation:** Irritant/ Sensitizer/ Carcinogen

Acute exposure, depending upon the species of tree, inhalation of wood dust may cause symptoms ranging from sneezing, coughing, rhinorrhea, fever, muscular aches and pains, labored breathing, nasopharyngitis, laryngitis, and bronchitis. The irritation caused by some wood dusts may cause sinus inflammation and nose bleeds. These symptoms have been attributed to an allergic type reaction and appear to be very species specific. Pulmonary sensitization to specific species has been documented. Pneumonitis or extrinsic allergic alveolitis may also occur among individuals that are susceptible to the wood dust. Studies have shown that this condition may be caused by the wood dust itself. There is the possibility that microorganisms inhabiting the wood may also be responsible for causing this condition in some individuals. Many of the more exotic woods have been reported to cause nausea and vomiting following inhalation; these woods have also been reported to cause dizziness, giddiness, and cardiac arrhythmias.



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## MATERIAL SAFETY DATA

### *Health Effects and First Aid (cont'd)*

Chronic exposure, repeated or prolonged exposure, may result in asthma and/or rhinitis. Studies have shown that occupational asthma is the result of irritation of the dust. Many woods are composed of biologically active chemical agents and these agents may play a role in causing the asthma. Cases of pulmonary fibrosis have been reported in individuals with long-term exposure to wood dust. Nasal carcinomas, especially adenocarcinoma, have been documented in workers in the furniture and cabinet-making industries. This excess risk occurs mainly in those exposed to wood dust. An increase in Hodgkin's disease has been seen in other industries that are involved in woodworking, especially sawmills. Wood dusts appear to produce a mucostatic effect on the body. A study has suggested that this mucostatic action may be of importance in the development of nasal adenocarcinomas in furniture workers because of the prolonged retention of wood dust in the nasal cavity.

**First Aid:** Remove from exposure area to fresh air immediately. If breathing has stopped, perform artificial respiration. Keep person warm and at rest. Get medical attention immediately.

#### **Skin Contact:** Irritant/Sensitize

Acute Exposure - All wood dusts have been implicated in causing irritation. This irritation may be the result of mechanical means and/or chemical agents. Mechanically caused irritation is the result of dust particles being trapped in the clothes of the worker and producing abrasions. The chemical agents may cause contact dermatitis with redness, scaling, and itching. Severe cases may progress to blistering of the skin. The areas that are most often affected are the face, eyelids, hands and forearms. Splinters from some hardwoods may produce septic wounds that may take an extremely long time to heal.

Chronic exposure, repeated or prolonged exposure, may result in allergic dermatitis. Sensitization reactions may be mild with only erythema and irritation, but more often there is vesicular or papular dermatitis which may progress to chronic dermatitis.

**First Aid:** A thorough cleansing of the body, each day as a minimum, is necessary in the prevention of adverse reactions to wood dust. Any wound resulting from splinters or abrasions should be cleaned thoroughly. Splinters should be removed as quickly as possible by qualified medical personnel. If an infection from a splinter wound occurs, seek prompt medical attention. Remove and wash contaminated clothing at the end of each day.

#### **Eye contact:** Irritant.

Acute exposure - direct contact with wood dust may cause irritation and inflammation. Mechanical damage of the cornea may also occur.

Chronic exposure, repeated or prolonged exposure, may cause conjunctivitis.

**First Aid:** Wash eyes immediately with large amounts of water, occasionally lifting upper and lower lids, until no evidence of chemical remains (approximately 15-20 minutes). Get medical attention immediately.



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## MATERIAL SAFETY DATA

### *Health Effects and First Aid (cont'd)*

**Ingestion:** Acute exposure - no data available. Chronic exposure - no data available.

**First aid:** Treat symptomatically and supportively. Get medical attention immediately. If vomiting occurs, keep head lower than hips to prevent aspiration.

**Antidote:** No specific antidote. Treat symptomatically and supportively.

**Reactivity:** Stable under normal temperatures and pressures.

**Incompatibilities:** Strong oxidizers: fire and explosion hazard.

**Decomposition:** Thermal decomposition products may include toxic oxides of carbon.

**Polymerization:** Hazardous polymerization has not been reported to occur under normal temperatures and pressures.

### **Conditions to avoid**

Finely divided dusts may ignite easily. Larger dusts usually require longer exposure time to heat a flame before ignition occurs.

### **Spill and leak procedures**

**Occupational spill:** No special precautions indicated.



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## MATERIAL SAFETY DATA

### *Protective equipment*

**Ventilation:** Provide local exhaust or general dilution ventilation. Ventilation equipment must be explosion-proof.

**Respirator:** The specific respirator selected must be based on the contamination levels found in the work place, must not exceed the working limits of the respirator and be jointly approved by the National Institute for Occupational safety and Health and the Mine Safety and Health Administration. The following respirators are recommended based on the data found in the physical data, health effects and toxicity sections. They are ranked in order from minimum to maximum respiratory protection:

- \* Cartridge style respirators (half or full face piece) with dust cartridges.
- \* Gas mask respirators with dust filter canisters.
- \* Type E C' supplied-air respirator operated in the pressure-demand or other positive pressure or continuous-flow mode.
- \*Self-contained breathing apparatus.

FOR FIREFIGHTING AND OTHER IMMEDIATELY DANGEROUS TO LIFE OR HEALTH CONDITIONS: Self-contained breathing apparatus with full face piece operated in pressure demand or other positive pressure mode.

Supplied-air respirator with full face piece and operated in pressure demand or other positive pressure mode in combination with an auxiliary self-contained breathing apparatus operated in pressure-demand or other positive pressure mode.

**Clothing:** Employee must wear appropriate protective (impervious) clothing and equipment to prevent repeated or prolonged skin contact with this substance.

**Gloves:** Employee must wear appropriate protective gloves to prevent contact with this substance.

**Eye protection:** Employee must wear splash-proof or dust-resistant safety goggles to prevent eye contact with this substance.



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## CAUTION LABEL

### WOOD DUST CAUTION

**SAWING, SANDING OR MACHINING WOOD PRODUCTS CAN PRODUCE WOOD DUST WHICH CAN CAUSE A FLAMMABLE OR EXPLOSIVE HAZARD.**

**WOOD DUST MAY CAUSE LUNG, UPPER RESPIRATORY TRACT, EYE AND SKIN IRRITATION.**

**SOME WOOD SPECIES MAY CAUSE DERMATITIS AND/OR RESPIRATORY ALLERGIC EFFECTS.**

- \*\* Avoid dust contact with ignition source.
- \*\* Sweep or vacuum dust for recovery or disposal.
- \*\* Avoid prolonged or repeated breathing of wood dust in air.
- \*\* Avoid dust contact with eyes and skin.

### **FIRST AID:**

If inhaled, remove to fresh air. In case of contact, flush eyes and skin with water.  
If irritation persists, call a physician.

### **SPECIAL NOTE:**

Some species of hardwoods are considered as suspect carcinogens.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
SEE MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET.**