

What is Methanol?

Safe Handling Information



A Responsible Care® Company

*Methanex is the global leader
in the production and supply
of methanol.*

What is Methanol?

Methanol is a clear, colourless liquid that looks like water and has no discernable odour in low concentrations. It is flammable and toxic.

While methanol does have risks associated with it, they can be managed. To minimize the effect(s) on people, the environment or the community:

- Use metal drums or glass containers, not plastic.
- Handle in a well ventilated area or use breathing apparatus.
- Wear chemical resistant gloves and safety glasses.
- Keep methanol away from children.
- Clearly label all containers.
- Eliminate heat / fire / ignition sources.
- Learn from minor incidents.
- Have firefighting systems immediately available.
- Secure the facilities with perimeter fencing.

Dangerous Goods Classification

“Flammable Liquids” Class 3.2
(Primary Class)



“Toxic Substances” Class 6.1
(Secondary Class)

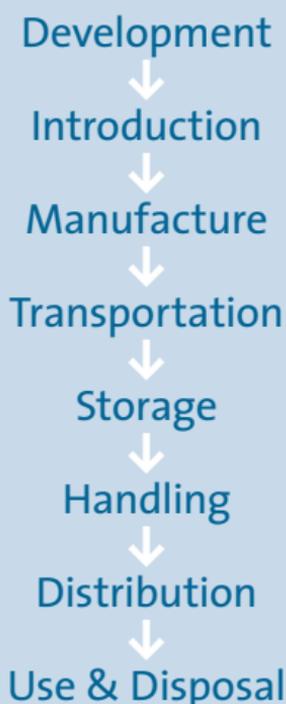


United Nations Number (UN): 1230

Responsible Care[®]

Responsible Care is the cultural foundation of Methanex's commitment to health, safety, communities and the environment.

Although there are hazards associated with methanol, they can be managed to minimize potential risks to people and the environment during the life cycle of methanol, which includes:



Methanol is a basic chemical building block for other products such as acetic acid and formaldehyde. It is used in numerous applications including plastics, paints, glues and pharmaceuticals. Methanol is also being used increasingly in new applications, such as wastewater denitrification, biodiesel, gasoline blends and fuel cells.

For further information, please contact our offices (see back of brochure) or go to the Methanex website at:

www.methanex.com

made simple



Effects of Methanol on Health

SHORT-TERM EFFECTS

Swallowing even small amounts of methanol can cause:

- Nausea
- Headache
- Visual disturbances or blindness
- Abdominal pain
- Possibly death

Inhalation can cause:

- Headaches
- Sleepiness
- Nausea
- Digestive and visual disturbances
- Confusion
- Loss of consciousness

LONG-TERM EFFECTS

Repeated exposure by inhalation or absorption can cause:

- Systemic poisoning
- Brain disorders
- Impaired vision and blindness

First Aid

In all cases of exposure seek medical attention.

Inhalation

- Move person to location with fresh air
- Restore or assist breathing

Skin Exposure

- Remove contaminated clothing
- Wash exposed skin with large amounts of running water

Eye Exposure

- Flush immediately (with gently running water for a minimum of 15 minutes)

Ingestion

- DO NOT induce vomiting
- Symptoms may be delayed 18–24 hours

For more information, please



Fire Extinguishing Methods and Dangers

Methanol burns with a clear flame and without smoke, so it is difficult to see in daylight. Methanol will still burn at four parts of water to one part of methanol.

Extinguish with:

- Water—a minimum five parts water to one part methanol
- Foam—alcohol resistant fire fighting foam
- Dry powder extinguisher

Byproducts of methanol combustion

- Mostly carbon dioxide and water
- May contain formaldehyde and carbon monoxide

Environmental Considerations

- Methanol is biodegradable in low concentrations.
- Methanol is soluble in water.
- Do not dispose of methanol in the environment.
- Impact is confined to the immediate area of the release.
- There is an adverse effect on water life—if the release is large enough.
- Contain the release, dispose of methanol safely.
- Stay upwind of a release or fire.
- Evacuate the area where the atmosphere is above acceptable limits, i.e., 200 ppm methanol in air, or if you can smell a faint odour of alcohol.

**For more information on Safe Handling
of methanol, visit**

www.methanex.com

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Beyond what's required.

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