

SAFETY DATA SHEET

AUGUST 2016

COMPOST, POTTING MIXES AND OTHER ORGANIC GARDENING MATERIALS

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This Safety Data Sheet (SDS) is issued by [Jeffries](#) in accordance with Worksafe Australia guidelines. As such, the information contained herein must not be altered, deleted or added to. [Jeffries](#) will issue a new SDS when there is a change in product specifications and/or Worksafe Australia guidelines / regulations. [Jeffries](#) will not accept any responsibility for any changes made to its SDS in content by any other person or organisation.

IDENTIFICATION

Product Name: Compost, Potting Mix, Other Organic Gardening Materials
UN Number: Not applicable
Dangerous Goods Class: Not applicable
Subsidiary Risk: Low
Hazchem Code: Not applicable
Poisons Schedule Number: Not applicable
Container Size and Type: LDPE/LLDPE blend plastic bags (5, 10, 15, 25, 30, 36 & 50 litre), Bulk
Use: Used for landscaping and general horticultural purposes.

Physical Description /Properties

Appearance: Brown/greyish blend of natural organic and mineral substances.
Odour: Non-specific "earthy" odour
Boiling Point: Not applicable
Melting Point: Not applicable
Vapour Pressure: Not applicable
Flash Point: Not Applicable
Specific Gravity (Water=1): Varies according to composition and moisture content
Molecular Weight: Not applicable
Solubility In Water: Not soluble
pH: 4.8 to 9.0

Ingredients

Compost, potting mixes and other organic gardening materials are made by blending naturally occurring materials including: plant mulch, top soil, wood dust, manure and mushroom compost. Slow release fertiliser may also be added. The materials contain a variety of living micro-organisms, including bacteria, fungi and protozoa.

HEALTH HAZARD INFORMATION

Acute Health Effects

Swallowed: Unlikely under normal conditions. Swallowing compost and potting mixes may cause abdominal discomfort and increase the risk of gastro-intestinal infections.

Eye: The dust and/or liquid mist (bioaerosols) may be irritating to the eyes resulting in redness and watering, or eye infection.

Skin: Skin contact with these products and their dusts and/or liquid mists (bioaerosols) may result in skin irritation and in some people may lead to skin sensitisation, dermatitis or skin infection.

Inhaled: Inhalation of dust and/or liquid mists (bioaerosols) may irritate, inflame or sensitise the nose, throat and lungs, and aggravate pre-existing conditions such as asthma and bronchitis.

Chronic Health Effects

Repeated inhalation of dust and/or liquid mist (bioaerosols) from these products may result in respiratory irritation, inflammation or sensitisation resulting in illness ranging from hayfever and asthma to pneumonia (eg Legionnaires disease) and pneumonia like illness. The elderly, those with pre-existing respiratory diseases, and the immunocompromised are at particular risk from illnesses. All people working with these and other landscaping and horticultural products should ensure that they are adequately protected from tetanus.

First Aid

Swallowed: Give water to drink. Seek medical attention if any abdominal symptoms.
Eye: Flush eyes thoroughly for ten minutes with plenty of water. If irritation persists seek medical attention.
Skin: Wash thoroughly with mild soap and water.
Inhaled: Remove to fresh air.
Advice to Doctor: Treat symptomatically.

P R E C A U T I O N S F O R U S E

Exposure Standards:

Worksafe Australia Exposure Standard:

There is no specific standard for composts and potting mixes.

The Jeffries Group Recommendation:

Keep exposures to dust and/or liquid mist (bioaerosols) from these products as low as possible.

Engineering Controls:

All work with these products should be carried out in such a way as to avoid skin contact and minimise exposure to dust and/or liquid mist (bioaerosols).

Respiratory Protection:

Avoid breathing dust and/or liquid mist (bioaerosols). Wear an approved respirator suitable for respirable particulates and conforming with AS/NZS 1715 and 1716 when exposed to dust and/or liquid mist (bioaerosols). These standards should be followed in the selection, fit-testing, use, storage and maintenance of the respirators.

Skin Protection:

Wear standard duty gloves (AS 2161), loose comfortable clothing, and boots. Long-sleeved shirts and long trousers are recommended if skin irritation occurs. Wash skin with mild soap and water immediately after working with these materials. Launder work clothes regularly.

Eye Protection:

Non-fogging, dust resistant goggles or safety glasses (AS/NZS1336) should be worn if there is any risk of dust and/or liquid mist (bioaerosols) getting into the eyes.

Flammability:

Not flammable.

S A F E H A N D L I N G I N F O R M A T I O N

Storage and Transport:

No special transport requirements are necessary. Store composts, potting mixes and other organic gardening materials in a cool dry area.

Spills and Disposal:

Waste material can be disposed of as trade waste in accordance with local authority guidelines.

Fire / Explosion Hazard:

Not applicable.

C O N T A C T D E T A I L S

Further information may be obtained [from Jeffries:](#)
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