

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

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PRODUCT	MEDIUM DENSITY FIBREBOARD HMR with Formaldehyde Emission (E2) HMR with Formaldehyde Emission (E1)
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1 Identity and Use

Registered Trade names	-
Dangerous Goods Class	None allocated
Hazchem Code	None allocated
Poisons Schedule	Not scheduled
Use	Construction of furniture and cabinets. General-purpose building boards.

2 Ingredients

Chemical Entity	Cas No.	Proportion
Rubberwood	None	> 80%
Melamine Urea Formaldehyde resin	9011-05-6	8 – 12%
Wax		<1%
Note	<i>The above ingredients are bound together under heat and pressure. The process "cures" the resin, but small amounts of formaldehyde may be released from the finished products.</i>	

3 Physical Description/Properties

Appearance	The products are manufactured as pressed panels. They are made from wood fibers that are bonded together with resin.
Odour	Newly manufactured MDF product and freshly cut surfaces of these products may have an odor due to the resin.
Boiling point	Not applicable.
Specific gravity	0.65 - 0.85
Vapour pressure	Not applicable
Flash point	Not applicable
Solubility in water	Not soluble
Flammability limits	Not available
Auto-Ignition Temperature	Does not auto-ignite

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4 Health Hazard Information

Health Effects

When first manufactured, the unsealed surfaces of these boards may release small quantities of formaldehyde gas. The concentrations will be highest when the boards are stored in confined, poorly ventilated spaces. When the boards are sealed with paint, varnish, or other surface decorative finishes, the potential for the release of formaldehyde will be greatly reduced. When the boards are cut, drilled or sanded etc. dust will be given off.

The known health effects of the constituents of the MDF products are as follows

Wood dust	Dust and splinters may cause irritation of the nose and throat, eyes and skin. Inhalation of wood dust may increase the risk of nasal and paranasal sinus cancers.
Cured resin	The cured resin is inert and not likely to contribute to health effects.
Wax	The wax vapour may be irritating to the nose and throat, eyes and skin, if the board is heated to 120 °C or more.
Formaldehyde	Formaldehyde gas and dilute solutions or formaldehyde in water are irritating to the nose and throat, eyes and skin. The solution is also sensitizers and contact dermatitis has been reported.

Exposures to the dust, gas and vapour from the panels may result in the following health effects:

Swallowed	Unlikely to occur, but swallowing the dust may result in abdominal and redness.
Eyes	The dust, gas and vapour may irritate the skin, resulting in itching and occasionally a red rash. Allergic contact dermatitis may occur.
Inhaled	The dust, gas and vapour may irritate the nose, throat and lungs, especially in people with upper respiratory tract or chest complaints. Asthma may occur.
Skin	The dust, gas and vapour may irritate the skin, resulting in itching and occasionally a red rash. Allergic dermatitis may occur
Chronic	Repeated exposures over many years to uncontrolled dust, gas and vapour from these boards may increase the risk of allergic dermatitis, asthma, or chronic nose or throat irritation in some people. The risk of nasal or paranasal sinus cancers may also be increased. But if the work practices that noted in this MSDS are followed, no chronic health effects are anticipated.

5 First Aid Measures

Swallowed	Drink a glass of water.
Eye	Flush with flowing water for at least 15 minutes, and if symptoms persist seek immediate medical attention.
Skin	Wash with mild soap and running water.
Advice to doctor	Treat symptomatically.

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6 Protective measures.

Engineering controls	All work with these MDF products should be carried out in such a way as to minimize the generation of dust, gas and vapours. Under factory conditions, sawing, drilling, sanding, etc, should be done with equipment fitted with exhaust devices capable of removing dust, gas and vapour at source. Hand powered tools should only be used in well ventilated. Work areas should be cleaned at least daily, and dust removed by vacuum cleaning or wet sweeping method.
Skin Protection	Wear loose, comfortable clothing. Long-sleeved shirts and trousers are recommended if skin irritation occurs. After handling panels, wash with mild soap and water. Do not scratch or rub the skin if it becomes irritated. Wash works clothes regularly and separates from other clothes. Comfortable work gloves should be worn.
Respiratory Protection	A replaceable filter or disposal half-face piece respirator should be worn when sawing, drilling or sanding etc.
Eye Protection	Safety glasses of non-fogging goggles should be worn sawing, drilling or sanding etc.
Flammability	These MDF products are flammable but difficult to light. Avoid a build-up of dust and keep all storage and work areas well ventilated. Avoid sources of radiant heat and flame; and avoid sparks and sources of ignition in all electrical equipment, including dust extraction equipment. People must not smoke in storage or work areas.

7 Safe Handling Information

Storage and Transport	The MDF products should be stored in well-ventilated areas away from sources of heat, flame or sparks. No special transport requirements are considered necessary.
Spills and Disposal	Off-cuts and general waste material should be placed in containers and disposed off at approved landfill sites, or burnt in an approved furnace or incinerator, in accordance with disposal authority guidelines. Dust should be cleaned up by vacuuming or wet sweeping.
Fire/Explosion Hazard	Burning or smoldering MDF or dust can generate carbon dioxide and other pyrolysis products typical of burning organic material. Dry dust in high concentrations can be explosive. Use water or dry foam fire extinguishers.

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