

Chemical Resources about Hazards

As you work with chemicals in the lab, it is important to know the dangers and toxicity of the materials you are working with.

The purpose of this page is to acquaint you with one or more chemical resource books, with chemical resources on the Web, and with the content of **Material Safety Data Sheets** (MSDS).

Useful examples of chemical resources include:

- **The Merck Index:** book, available in lab
- **Chemfinder** (Cambridge Software): www.chemfinder.com (free-ware, but registration required)
- **MSDS sheets:**
 - State of Vermont Material Safety Data Sheet database
 - <http://hazard.com/msds/index.php>
 - Other MSDS databases
 - Note: Use one that's easily searchable!
 - Various chemical suppliers' MSDS
 - Access through online catalogs at company sites
- **NIOSH Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards:** <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/npg/default.html>

Guidelines in working with chemicals:

Clean up spills immediately.

Wash your hands before leaving the lab and anytime you get chemicals on your skin.

Never return unused reagents/chemicals to their storage containers (to prevent contamination)

Do not point the open end of a test tube toward yourself or someone else.

Always add acid to water slowly to dilute it.

Be mindful of proper waste disposal instructions. If you're unsure—ASK!!!

Hazard Identifications:

blue (health), red (fire),
yellow (reactivity), white (special)

Ratings: 0 (no hazard) to 4 (high hazard)

