



### Section 1 - Identification of the Material and Supplier

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**Chemical nature:** Vermiculite  
**Trade Name:** Vermiculite  
**Product Use:** Gardening product  
**Creation Date:** October, 2016  
**This version issued:** October, 2016 and is valid for 5 years from this date.  
**Poisons Information Centre: Phone 13 1126 from anywhere in Australia**

### Section 2 - Hazards Identification

#### Statement of Hazardous Nature

This product is classified as: Not classified as hazardous according to the criteria of SWA.  
Not a Dangerous Good according to Australian Dangerous Goods (ADG) Code, IATA or IMDG/IMSBC criteria.

**SUSMP Classification:** None allocated.

**ADG Classification:** None allocated. Not a Dangerous Good according to Australian Dangerous Goods (ADG) Code, IATA or IMDG/IMSBC criteria.

**UN Number:** None allocated

#### GHS Signal word: NONE

#### PREVENTION

- P201: Obtain special instructions before use.
- P202: Do not handle until all safety precautions have been read and understood.
- P261: Avoid breathing dusts.
- P262: Do not get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing.
- P281: Use personal protective equipment as required.

#### RESPONSE

- P335: Brush off loose particles from skin.
- P363: Wash contaminated clothing before reuse.
- P301+P330+P331: IF SWALLOWED: Rinse mouth. Do NOT induce vomiting.
- P308+P313: If exposed or concerned: Get medical advice.
- P370+P378: Not combustible. Use extinguishing media suited to burning materials.

#### STORAGE

- P410: Protect from sunlight.

#### DISPOSAL

- P501: If they can not be recycled, dispose of contents to an approved waste disposal plant and containers to landfill (see Section 13 of this SDS).

### Emergency Overview

**Physical Description & Colour:** Golden brown and white granules

**Odour:** No odour.

**Major Health Hazards:** no significant risk factors have been found for this product.

### Section 3 - Composition/Information on Ingredients

Ingredients	CAS No	Conc, %	TWA (mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	STEL (mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
Vermiculite	1318-00-9	99.9-100	not set	not set
Crystalline silica - quartz	14808-60-7	<0.1%	0.1	not set

This is a commercial product whose exact ratio of components may vary slightly. Minor quantities of other non hazardous ingredients are also possible.

The SWA TWA exposure value is the average airborne concentration of a particular substance when calculated over a normal 8 hour working day for a 5 day working week. The STEL (Short Term Exposure Limit) is an exposure value that may be equalled (but should not be exceeded) for no longer than 15 minutes and should not be repeated more than 4 times per day. There should be at least 60 minutes between successive exposures at the STEL. The term "peak" is used when the TWA limit, because of the rapid action of the substance, should never be exceeded, even briefly.

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## Section 4 - First Aid Measures

### General Information:

You should call The Poisons Information Centre if you feel that you may have been poisoned, burned or irritated by this product. The number is 13 1126 from anywhere in Australia (0800 764 766 in New Zealand) and is available at all times. Have this SDS with you when you call.

**Inhalation:** No first aid measures normally required. However, if inhalation has occurred, and irritation has developed, remove to fresh air and observe until recovered. If irritation becomes painful or persists more than about 30 minutes, seek medical advice.

**Skin Contact:** Gently brush away excess particles. Wash gently and thoroughly with water (use non-abrasive soap if necessary) for 5 minutes or until chemical is removed.

**Eye Contact:** Quickly and gently brush particles from eyes. Immediately flush the contaminated eye(s) with lukewarm, gently flowing water until the particles are removed, while holding the eyelid(s) open. Obtain medical attention if irritation persists, or if particles are lodged in surface of the eye(s). Take special care if exposed person is wearing contact lenses.

**Ingestion:** If product is swallowed or gets in mouth, do NOT induce vomiting; wash mouth with water and give some water to drink. If symptoms develop, or if in doubt contact a Poisons Information Centre or a doctor.

## Section 5 - Fire Fighting Measures

**Fire and Explosion Hazards:** The major hazard in fires is usually inhalation of heated and toxic or oxygen deficient (or both), fire gases. There is no risk of an explosion from this product under normal circumstances if it is involved in a fire.

No fire decomposition products are expected from this product at temperatures normally achieved in a fire.

**Extinguishing Media:** Not combustible. Use extinguishing media suited to burning materials.

**Fire Fighting:** If a significant quantity of this product is involved in a fire, call the fire brigade.

**Flash point:** Does not burn.

**Upper Flammability Limit:** Does not burn.

**Lower Flammability Limit:** Does not burn.

**Autoignition temperature:** Not applicable - does not burn.

**Flammability Class:** Does not burn.

## Section 6 - Accidental Release Measures

**Accidental release:** Minor spills do not normally need any special cleanup measures. In the event of a major spill, prevent spillage from entering drains or water courses. As a minimum, wear overalls, goggles and gloves. Suitable materials for protective clothing include no specific manufacturer recommendations. Use impermeable gloves with care. Eye/face protective equipment should comprise, as a minimum, protective glasses and, preferably, goggles. If there is a significant chance that dusts are likely to build up in cleanup area, we recommend that you use a suitable dust mask. Use a P1 mask, designed for use against mechanically generated particles e.g. silica & asbestos. Otherwise, not normally necessary.

Stop leak if safe to do so, and contain spill. Sweep up and shovel or collect recoverable product into labelled containers for recycling or salvage, and dispose of promptly. Consider vacuuming if appropriate. Recycle containers wherever possible after careful cleaning. After spills, wash area preventing runoff from entering drains. If a significant quantity of material enters drains, advise emergency services. This material may be suitable for approved landfill. Ensure legality of disposal by consulting regulations prior to disposal. Thoroughly launder protective clothing before storage or re-use. Advise laundry of nature of contamination when sending contaminated clothing to laundry.

## Section 7 - Handling and Storage

**Handling:** Keep exposure to this product to a minimum, and minimise the quantities kept in work areas. Check Section 8 of this SDS for details of personal protective measures, and make sure that those measures are followed. The measures detailed below under "Storage" should be followed during handling in order to minimise risks to persons using the product in the workplace. Also, avoid contact or contamination of product with incompatible materials listed in Section 10.

**Storage:** Store packages of this product in a cool place. Keep containers dry and away from water. Keep containers of this product in a well ventilated area. Protect this product from light. Make sure that the product does not come into contact with substances listed under "Incompatibilities" in Section 10. Check packaging - there may be further storage instructions on the label.

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## Section 8 - Exposure Controls and Personal Protection

The following Australian Standards will provide general advice regarding safety clothing and equipment:

Respiratory equipment: **AS/NZS 1715**, Protective Gloves: **AS 2161**, Occupational Protective Clothing: AS/NZS 4501 set 2008, Industrial Eye Protection: **AS1336** and **AS/NZS 1337**, Occupational Protective Footwear: **AS/NZS2210**.

SWA Exposure Limits	TWA (mg/m <sup>3</sup> )	STEL (mg/m <sup>3</sup> )
Crystalline silica - quartz	0.1	not set

No special equipment is usually needed when occasionally handling small quantities. The following instructions are for bulk handling or where regular exposure in an occupational setting occurs without proper containment systems.

**Ventilation:** This product should only be used in a well ventilated area. If natural ventilation is inadequate, use of a fan is suggested.

**Eye Protection:** Eye protection is not normally necessary when this product is being used. However, if in doubt, wear suitable protective glasses or goggles.

**Skin Protection:** You should avoid contact even with mild skin irritants. Therefore you should wear suitable impervious elbow-length gloves and facial protection when handling this product. See below for suitable material types.

**Protective Material Types:** There is no data that enables us to recommend any type except that it should be impermeable.

**Respirator:** If there is a significant chance that dusts are likely to build up in the area where this product is being used, we recommend that you use a suitable dust mask. Use a P1 mask, designed for use against mechanically generated particles e.g. silica & asbestos. Otherwise, not normally necessary.

## Section 9 - Physical and Chemical Properties:

<b>Physical Description &amp; colour:</b>	Golden brown and white granules
<b>Odour:</b>	No odour.
<b>Boiling Point:</b>	Not available.
<b>Freezing/Melting Point:</b>	1200-1320°C
<b>Volatiles:</b>	No data.
<b>Vapour Pressure:</b>	No data.
<b>Vapour Density:</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Specific Gravity:</b>	2.4-2.7
<b>Water Solubility:</b>	Insoluble.
<b>pH:</b>	6-9
<b>Volatility:</b>	No data.
<b>Odour Threshold:</b>	No data.
<b>Evaporation Rate:</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Coeff Oil/water Distribution:</b>	No data
<b>Viscosity:</b>	Not applicable.
<b>Autoignition temp:</b>	Not applicable - does not burn.

## Section 10 - Stability and Reactivity

**Reactivity:** This product is unlikely to react or decompose under normal storage conditions. However, if you have any doubts, contact the supplier for advice on shelf life properties.

**Conditions to Avoid:** This product should be kept in a cool place, preferably below 30°C. Containers should be kept dry. Keep containers and surrounding areas well ventilated. Protect this product from light.

**Incompatibilities:** strong acids, reducing agents.

**Fire Decomposition:** No significant quantities of decomposition products are expected at temperatures normally achieved in a fire. Silicon compounds.

**Polymerisation:** This product will not undergo polymerisation reactions.

## Section 11 - Toxicological Information

**Local Effects:**

**Target Organs:** There is no data to hand indicating any particular target organs.

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## Classification of Hazardous Ingredients

No ingredient mentioned in the HSIS Database is present in this product at hazardous concentrations.

## Potential Health Effects

### Inhalation:

**Short Term Exposure:** Available data indicates that this product is not harmful. However product may be mildly irritating, although unlikely to cause anything more than mild transient discomfort.

**Long Term Exposure:** Long term inhalation of high amounts of any nuisance dust may overload lung clearance mechanism. No data for health effects associated with long term inhalation.

### Skin Contact:

**Short Term Exposure:** Available data indicates that this product is not harmful. It should present no hazards in normal use. However product may be irritating, but is unlikely to cause anything more than mild transient discomfort.

**Long Term Exposure:** No data for health effects associated with long term skin exposure.

### Eye Contact:

**Short Term Exposure:** This product is likely to be mechanically irritating. If exposure is minor or brief, no long term effects should result. However, if material is not removed promptly, scratches to surface of the eye may result with long term consequences.

**Long Term Exposure:** No data for health effects associated with long term eye exposure.

### Ingestion:

**Short Term Exposure:** Significant oral exposure is considered to be unlikely. However, this product may be irritating to mucous membranes but is unlikely to cause anything more than transient discomfort.

**Long Term Exposure:** No data for health effects associated with long term ingestion.

### Carcinogen Status:

**SWA:** No significant ingredient is classified as carcinogenic by SWA.

**NTP:** Crystalline Silica - Quartz is classified by NTP as reasonably anticipated to be carcinogenic to humans. See the NTP website for further details. A web address has not been provided as addresses frequently change.

**IARC:** Crystalline Silica - Quartz is classed 1 by IARC - carcinogenic to humans. See the IARC website for further details. A web address has not been provided as addresses frequently change.

## Section 12 - Ecological Information

Insufficient data to be sure of status. Expected to not be an environmental hazard.

## Section 13 - Disposal Considerations

**Disposal:** This product may be recycled if unused, or if it has not been contaminated so as to make it unsuitable for its intended use. If it has been contaminated, it may be possible to reclaim the product by filtration, distillation or some other means. If neither of these options is suitable in-house, consider controlled incineration, or contact a specialist waste disposal company.

## Section 14 - Transport Information

**UN Number:** This product is not classified as a Dangerous Good by ADG, IATA or IMDG/IMSBC criteria. No special transport conditions are necessary unless required by other regulations.

## Section 15 - Regulatory Information

**AICS:** All of the significant ingredients in this formulation are compliant with NICNAS regulations.

## Section 16 - Other Information

This SDS contains only safety-related information. For other data see product literature.

### Acronyms:

<b>ADG Code</b>	Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail (7 <sup>th</sup> edition)
<b>AICS</b>	Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances
<b>SWA</b>	Safe Work Australia, formerly ASCC and NOHSC
<b>CAS number</b>	Chemical Abstracts Service Registry Number

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<b>Hazchem Code</b>	Emergency action code of numbers and letters that provide information to emergency services especially firefighters
<b>IARC</b>	International Agency for Research on Cancer
<b>NOS</b>	Not otherwise specified
<b>NTP</b>	National Toxicology Program (USA)
<b>R-Phrase</b>	Risk Phrase
<b>SUSMP</b>	Standard for the Uniform Scheduling of Medicines & Poisons
<b>UN Number</b>	United Nations Number

THIS SDS SUMMARISES OUR BEST KNOWLEDGE OF THE HEALTH AND SAFETY HAZARD INFORMATION OF THE PRODUCT AND HOW TO SAFELY HANDLE AND USE THE PRODUCT IN THE WORKPLACE. EACH USER MUST REVIEW THIS SDS IN THE CONTEXT OF HOW THE PRODUCT WILL BE HANDLED AND USED IN THE WORKPLACE.

IF CLARIFICATION OR FURTHER INFORMATION IS NEEDED TO ENSURE THAT AN APPROPRIATE RISK ASSESSMENT CAN BE MADE, THE USER SHOULD CONTACT THIS COMPANY SO WE CAN ATTEMPT TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FROM OUR SUPPLIERS. OUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR PRODUCTS SOLD IS SUBJECT TO OUR STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS, A COPY OF WHICH IS SENT TO OUR CUSTOMERS AND IS ALSO AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.

Please read all labels carefully before using product.

This SDS is prepared in accord with the SWA document "Preparation of Safety Data Sheets for Hazardous Chemicals - Code of Practice" (December 2011)  
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