

CLIP, Chemical Laboratory Information Profile

"Only when you know the hazards, can you take the necessary precautionary measures."

Glass Wool

CAS No.: not established

Synonym: Fiber glass

Physical Properties

An odorless, fibrous solid; may contain a binder or oil for dust suppression.
Vapor pressure at 20 °C: negligible

Exposure Limits

OSHA PEL: 15 mg/m³ total dust
5 mg/m³ respirable dust
ACGIH TLV: 1 respirable fiber/cc

Hazardous Characteristics

Overall toxicity	Flammability	Destructive to skin/eye	Absorbed through skin	Sensitizer?	Self-reactive?	Incompatible with:
1 (see carcinogenicity below)	0	1	0	No	No	Hydrofluoric acid, concentrated alkaline solutions*

0: None (or very low); 1: Slight; 2: Moderate; 3: High; 4: Severe.

*Reactivity Hazards

Hydrofluoric acid destroys glass wool. Glass wool fibers slowly dissolve in concentrated alkaline solutions.

Cited as known to be or reasonably anticipated to be carcinogenic in NTP-9? Yes, for respirable-sized fibers
Identified as a reproductive toxin in Frazier and Hage, *Reproductive Hazards of the Workplace*? No

Typical symptoms of acute exposures:

Under typical conditions of use in the laboratory, glass wool is not expected to be a significant hazard. However, if misused, the resulting dust can cause eye irritation, skin irritation, and/or irritation of the nose or throat with possible accompanying breathing difficulty.

Principal target organ(s) or system(s):

Eyes, skin, and, for particles of respirable size, the lungs and respiratory tract.

Storage Requirements

Store in a cool, dry, well-ventilated general storage location.

Notes

ReadMe

This Chemical Laboratory Information Profile is *not* a Material Safety Data Sheet. It is a brief summary for teachers and their students that describes some of the hazards of this chemical as it is typically used in laboratories. On the basis of your knowledge of these hazards and before using or handling this chemical, *you need to select the precautions and first-aid procedures to be followed.* For that information as well as for other useful information, refer to Material Safety Data Sheets, container labels, and references in the scientific literature that pertain to this chemical.

Reproductive Toxins

Some substances that in fact are reproductive toxins are not yet recognized as such. For the best readily available and up-to-date information, refer to "DART/ETIC". See the TOXNET home page at www.sis.nlm.nih.gov and click on "Toxicology search". *Note that some of the data in DART/ETIC have not been peer-reviewed.* See also Linda M. Frazier and Marvin L. Hage, *Reproductive Hazards of the Workplace*; Wiley, 1998; and T. H. Shepard, *Catalog of Teratogenic Agents*, 9th ed.; Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998.

Abbreviations

ACGIH TLV—American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists—Threshold Limit Value. C—Ceiling. CAS—Chemical Abstracts Service. mg/m³—milligrams per cubic meter. NA—Not applicable. NE—Not established. NI—No information. NTP-9—National Toxicology Program, Ninth Annual Report on Carcinogens. OSHA PEL—Occupational Safety and Health Administration—Permissible Exposure Limit. ppm—parts per million. STEL/C—Short-term exposure limit and ceiling.

Prepared by: Jay A. Young

Date of preparation: January 8, 2002