



Material Safety Data Sheets

Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) are part of the OHSU Hazard Communication Policy requirements to ensure the safe use of chemicals.

A common question about MSDSs is: “Do I have to have an MSDS for everything?” The short answer is no... If you work with or around hazardous chemicals or other hazardous materials, **OHSU policy requires you to keep paper copies of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for all hazardous chemicals in use.**

The exceptions are for consumer-use products used for their intended purpose (e.g.: hairspray for holding hair), in normal, consumer-use quantities. However, if you are using a product **outside** of its intended use or quantity (e.g.: the same hairspray is used to fix cytology samples), you must maintain an MSDS.

For all MSDSs, make sure that you keep a summary list in the front of your MSDS binder. This is also required by policy. Some exceptions to this rule exist for “research” laboratories, but not all labs are exempt. Research laboratories should consult the OHSU Laboratory Safety Manual for details.

If you have specific questions about chemicals, MSDSs, or the OHSU Laboratory Safety Manual contact Environmental Health and Radiation Safety (503 494-7795). They can also help you locate an MSDS if you need one.

