



MINICELL FOAM

Fine Cell Foam
Safety Data Sheet

Metro Foam encourages and requires that you read and understand the entire (M)SDS as there is important information throughout the document. We expect you to follow the precautions identified in this document unless your use conditions will necessitate other appropriate methods or actions.

1. Identification - Product and Company

This information sheet guides the storage, handling and processing of Minicell foam.

Minicell EVA is a cross-linked, expanded foam based on ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymer resin.

Minicell PE is a cross-linked, expanded foam based on polyethylene polymer resin.

You can view both product groups as primarily similar when considering their hazards.

References to Minicell foam contained in this information sheet applies equally to Minicell EVA and Minicell PE unless specified otherwise.

Company:

Metro Foam Pty Ltd
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SILVERWATER NSW 2128
AUSTRALIA

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2. Hazards Identification

Minicell Foam is not classified as dangerous according to EC criteria.

Minicell foam is usually considered to be chemically unreactive.

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3. First-aid Measures

Eye Contact Particulates may scratch eye surfaces or cause mechanical irritation. This product is an inert solid. If in the eye, remove as for any foreign object.

Flush eyes with plenty of water and remove contact lenses after the first 1-2 minutes then continue flushing for several minutes. If effects occur, consult a physician, preferably an ophthalmologist.

Skin Contact Negligible hazard at ambient (-10°C to +40°C) temperature. Wash the skin with plenty of water.

Exposure to hot material may cause thermal burns. For hot product, immediately immerse in, or flush, affected areas with large amounts of cold water to dissipate heat. Cover with clean cotton sheeting or gauze and seek prompt medical attention. For hot product, do not remove material from the skin as damaged flesh may tear from adhesion of the heated product to the skin.

Inhalation Negligible hazard at ambient (-10°C to +40°C) temperature. Move the person to fresh air and if effects occur, consult a physician.

Consider the foam dust from cutting and sanding as nuisance particulates. Exposure should be limited to 15 grams/m³ total dust and 5 grams/m³ respirable dust. (OSHA regulation 29CFR1910.1000). We recommend the use of personal protective equipment and suitable dust extractors and collectors.

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3. First-aid Measures (Continued)

Inhalation
(Continued)

Continued...

Minicell foam does not release noxious fumes at ambient temperatures. Polyolefins undergo minor thermal degradation at temperatures approaching 200°C, releasing some quantities of organic volatiles. Where exposed to very high temperatures (about 300°C), Minicell foam will start to decompose. In case of adverse exposure to vapours or aerosols formed at elevated temperatures, immediately remove the victim from the exposure. Administer artificial respiration if breathing has stopped. Keep at rest and call for prompt medical attention.

Ingestion

Avoid ingestion of Minicell foam. Although toxicologically harmless, if swallowed, seek medical attention. Minicell foam may cause a gastrointestinal blockage. Do not give laxatives or induce vomiting unless directed to do so by medical personnel.

Some non-standard grades (e.g. flame retardant) may contain additives which could be harmful if ingested.

4. Fire and Explosion Hazard

Minicell foam may burn at or above the flashpoint, estimated at 250°C. Airborne dust may explode if ignited. If thermally decomposed, flammable/toxic gases may be released. Toxic gases will form upon combustion. Static electricity may build up in Minicell foam. The material can accumulate static charges which can cause an incendiary electrical discharge.



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5. Fire Fighting Measures

Extinguishing Media	Water fog or fine spray. Firefighting foam. Dry chemical fire extinguishers. Carbon dioxide fire extinguishers.
Fire Fighting Procedures	Keep people away. Isolate fire and deny unnecessary entry. Soak thoroughly with water to cool and prevent re-ignition. If the material is molten, do not apply a direct water stream, but use fine water spray or foam. Cool the surroundings with water to localise the fire zone. Use handheld dry chemical or carbon dioxide extinguishers for small fires.
Special Protective Equipment for Firefighters	Wear positive-pressure self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) and protective fire fighting clothing (includes fire fighting helmet, coat, trousers, boots, and gloves). If protective equipment is not available or not used, fight the fire from a protected location or safe distance.
Unusual Fire and Explosion Hazards	Mechanical cutting, grinding, or sawing can cause the formation of dust. To reduce the potential for dust explosion, do not permit dust to accumulate. When burned without sufficient oxygen, dense smoke will occur.
Decomposition Products under Fire Conditions.	Oxygen lean conditions may produce carbon monoxide and irritating smoke. Minicell EVA foam may also produce acetic acid (irritant).
Hazardous Combustion Products	During a fire, smoke may contain the original material in addition to combustion products of varying composition which may be toxic or irritating. In smouldering or flaming conditions, the generation of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and carbon will occur. Based on combustion toxicity testing, the effects of combustion from Minicell foam are not more acutely toxic than the effects of combustion from common building materials such as wood.



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6. Accidental Release Measures

Steps to take if released or spilled	Recover spilled material if possible. See section on Disposal Considerations for additional information.
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7. Storage and Handling

Storage	Store in a cool, dry place away from high temperatures and hot pipes. Store away from direct sunlight to prevent colour fade and distortion. This material is combustible; avoid exposure to flame or other ignition sources. Observe good housekeeping to minimise the possibility of accidental fires. Users with substantial inventories should ensure they meet all legal and insurance requirements relating to the storage of combustible materials.
Handling	<p>We regularly prepare Minicell foam as flat sheets, profile shapes, strips and finished or semi-finished products. We may supply the material in plastic-wrapped bundles, stacked on pallets, loose, or packed in cardboard wraps or cartons. The products are chemically stable at ambient temperatures and do not produce fumes. Under these conditions, there is no need for special precautions.</p> <p>Mechanical cutting, grinding, or sawing can cause the formation of dust. To reduce the potential for dust explosion, do not permit dust to accumulate. This product is combustible and may constitute a fire hazard if improperly used or installed.</p>
Static	Static electricity may generate when separating sheets of Minicell foam. This static buildup can discharge through operators causing minor discomfort. Static discharge may also cause the ignition of flammable solvent vapours or cause damage to electrically sensitive items. Such items should not be stored adjacent to Minicell foam.



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8. Stability and Reactivity

Stability/Instability	Thermally stable at typical use temperatures.
Conditions to Avoid	Avoid temperatures above 70°C. Product decomposes above 250°C. Avoid direct sunlight.
Incompatible Materials	Avoid contact with strong oxidisers.
Hazardous Polymerisation	Will not occur.
Thermal Decomposition	Decomposition products depend upon temperature, air supply and the presence of other materials. Processing may release fumes and other decomposition products. At temperatures exceeding melt temperatures, polymer fragments can be released. Fumes can be irritating.

9. Disposal Considerations

This material may be disposed of preferably by incineration under approved conditions or, in some countries, in approved landfills.

Properly store waste and off-cuts in non-combustible bins until disposal. Incineration of waste can be hazardous if not carried out in a properly designed burner. Consult an engineer qualified to recommend a procedure before using burning as a disposal method.

Check local legislation governing the disposal of waste materials.



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10. Processing Minicell Foam

Processes used by clients to convert Minicell foam into finished products may have specific hazards. The following notes are offered as a guide to highlight some of the potential sources of hazard.

Splitting	The use of band knife splitters requires vigilance by the operator. These machines have feed rollers, a sharp blade and grinders for blade sharpening. These machines need to be kept clear of combustible dust which may be ignited by sparks from the grinders. These machines also tend to build up static electricity in the foam being processed.
Hydraulic Press (Die-cutting, Clicking)	No special precautions are required. Observation of the correct machine operating procedure is essential.
Bandsaw Cutting	No special precautions are required. It is essential to observe the correct machine operating procedure. Use great care when operating a machine with an exposed cutting blade.
High-Temperature Cutting, Laminating, Welding and Thermo-Forming	Machines used for heat processing Minicell foam should have interlocks fitted which can isolate the heat source. These interlocks should activate when exceeding the set operating temperature, or when the material flow stops during machine operation. Extract fumes or smoke produced by the heat process to the outside of the building. Use gloves when handling hot foam.
Buffing, Sanding or Trimming	These processes generate dust. Extract dust away from the operator and work area. A suitable dust collector is required. Static electricity caused by these processes can cause dust to adhere to the metal framework of machines. The machines should be well earthed. Controlled humidity can also reduce the amount of static electricity and consequently make the dust easier to extract. Use eye protection to prevent dust from entering the operator's eyes.



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11. Minicell Foam in Combination with Other Materials

Clients should ensure they have all the necessary technical and other information relating to the safe processing and handling of any materials supplied by third parties.

Adhesives Use solvent-based adhesives according to the manufacturer's recommendations. Contact the adhesive manufacturer for details. Properly designed adhesive application work areas will minimise the risk of accidental fire caused by static electrical discharge. Consult your local Health or Labour Authority for recommendations.

12. Toxicological Information

Acute Toxicity

Ingestion Swallowing is unlikely because of the physical state. Very low toxicity if swallowed. Harmful effects not anticipated from swallowing small amounts. May cause choking or blockage of the digestive tract if swallowed.

Eye Contact Solid or dust may cause irritation or corneal injury due to mechanical action. Fumes/vapour released during thermal operations such as hot-wire cutting may cause eye irritation.

Skin Contact Essentially non-irritating to the skin. Mechanical injury is a possibility.

Skin Absorption Skin absorption is unlikely due to physical properties.

Inhalation Dust may irritate the upper respiratory tract (nose and throat). Fumes/vapours released during thermal operations such as hot wire cutting may cause respiratory irritation.

Repeated Dose Toxicity

Based on available data, repeated exposures should not cause significant adverse effects.



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13. Ecological Information

Chemical Fate

Movement and Partitioning Expect no bioconcentration because of the relatively high molecular weight (MW greater than 1000). In the terrestrial environment, expect the material to remain in the soil. In the aquatic environment, expect Minicell foam to float.

Persistence and Degradability Anticipate surface photodegradation with exposure to sunlight. There should be no significant biodegradation.

Ecotoxicity

Minicell foam should not be acutely toxic to aquatic organisms.

14. Other Information

Technical Advice Service Metro Foam is committed to ensuring Minicell foam is used safely by our customers. Contact us with any queries relating to your processes.

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Metro Foam urges each customer or recipient of this (M)SDS to study it thoroughly and to consult appropriate expertise, as necessary or appropriate, to become aware of and understand the data contained in this (M)SDS and any hazards associated with the product. The information herein is provided in good faith and believed to be accurate as of the effective date shown above. However, no warranty, express or implied, is given. Regulatory requirements are subject to change and may differ between various locations. It is the buyer's and user's responsibility to ensure that their activities comply with all federal, state, provincial or local laws. The information presented here pertains only to the product as shipped. Since conditions for the use of the product are not under our control, it is the buyer's and user's duty to determine the conditions necessary for the safe use of this product. Due to the proliferation of sources for information such as supplier-specific (M)SDSs, we are not and cannot be responsible for (M)SDSs obtained from any source other than ourselves. If you have received an (M)SDS from another source or if you are not sure that the (M)SDS you have is current, please contact us directly for the complete and most current version.