

Composts, Potting Mixes, Mulches & other Organic Materials

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This Material Safety Data Sheet (SDS) is issued by RichEarth in accordance with Worksafe Australia guidelines. As such, the information contained herein must not be altered, deleted or added to. RichEarth will issue a new SDS when there is a change in product specifications and/or Worksafe Australia guidelines/regulations. RichEarth will not accept any responsibility for any changes made to its SDS in content by any other person or organisation.

The dust and mists (bioaerosols) from this product are hazardous according to the criteria of Worksafe Australia.

Identification

Product Name: - RichEarth Compost
- Pasteurised Mulch
- Other organic gardening materials

UN Number: none allocated

Dangerous Goods Class: none allocated

Subsidiary Risk: none allocated

Hazchem Code: none allocated

Poisons Schedule Number: none allocated

Use: Used for landscaping and general horticultural purposes.

Physical Description/Properties:

Appearance: brown to greyish blend of natural organic and mineral substances

Odour: non-specific "earthy" odour

Boiling Point: not applicable

Melting Point: not applicable

Vapour Pressure: not applicable

Flashpoint: not applicable

Specific gravity (water=1) varies according to composition and moisture content

Molecular weight: not applicable

Solubility in water: not applicable

pH: 4.8 to 7

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Ingredients:

Composts, potting mixes and other organic gardening materials are made by blending naturally occurring materials including plant mulch, top soil, sand, wood dust, manure and mushroom compost. The materials contain a variety of living micro-organisms, including bacteria, fungi and protozoa.

Health Hazard Information

Acute health effects:

Swallowed:

Unlikely under normal conditions. Swallowing compost and potting mixes may cause abdominal discomfort and increase the risk of gastro-intestinal infections.

Eye:

The dust and/or liquid mist (bioaerosols) may be irritating to the eyes resulting in redness and watering or eye infection.

Skin:

Skin contact with these products and their dusts and/or liquid mists (bioaerosols) may result in skin irritation and in some people may lead to sensitisation, dermatitis or skin infection.

Inhaled:

Inhalation of dust and/or liquid mists (bioaerosols) may irritate, inflame or sensitise the nose, throat and lungs, and aggravate pre-existing conditions such as asthma and bronchitis.

Chronic health effects:

Repeated inhalation of dust and/or liquid mist (bioaerosols) from these products may result in respiratory irritation, inflammation or sensitisation resulting in illness ranging from hayfever and asthma to pneumonia (e.g. Legionnaire's disease) and pneumonia-like illness. The elderly, those with pre-existing respiratory diseases and the immunocompromised are at particular risk from these illnesses. All people working with these and other landscaping and horticultural products should ensure that they are adequately protected from tetanus.

First Aid:

Swallowed:

Give water to drink. Seek medical attention if any abdominal symptoms.

Eyes:

Flush eyes thoroughly for ten minutes with plenty of water. If irritation persists seek medical attention.

Skin:

Wash thoroughly with mild soap and water.

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Inhaled:

Remove to fresh air.

Advice to Doctor:

Treat symptomatically.

Precautions for use

Exposure Standards

Worksafe Australia Exposure Standard:

There is no specific standard for composts and potting mixes.

JR Richards & Sons recommendation:

Keep exposure to dust and/or liquid mist (bioaerosols) from these products as low as practicable.

Engineering controls:

All work with these products should be carried out in such a way as to avoid skin contact and minimise exposure to dust and/or liquid mist (bioaerosols).

Respiratory protection:

Avoid breathing dust and/or liquid mist (bioaerosols). Wear an approved respirator suitable for respirable particulates and conforming with AS/NZS 1715 and 1716 when exposed to dust and/or liquid mist (bioaerosols). These standards should be followed in the selection, fit-testing, use, storage and maintenance of the respirators.

Skin Protection:

Wear standard duty gloves (AS 2161), loose comfortable clothing and boots. Long-sleeved shirts and long trousers are recommended if skin irritation occurs. Wash skin with mild soap and water immediately after working with these materials. Launder work clothes regularly.

Eye Protection:

Non-fogging dust resistant goggles or safety glasses (AS/NZS 1336) should be worn if there is a risk of dust and/or liquid mist (bioaerosols) getting into the eyes.

Flammability:

Not flammable.

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Safe Handling Information

Storage and transport:

No special transport requirements are necessary. Store composts, potting mixes and other organic materials in a cool dry area.

Spills and disposal:

Waste material can be disposed of as trade waste in accordance with local authority guidelines.

Fire/explosion hazard:

Not applicable.

Smoking:

RichEarth recommends that all work areas should be non- smoking areas.

Labelling Requirements

HAZARDOUS

COMPOSTS, POTTING MIXES AND OTHER ORGANIC GARDENING MATERIALS

This product is made from organic materials including composted pinebark, and contains living microorganisms, including bacteria, fungi and protozoa. May also contain mineral and fertiliser additives.

RISK:

Inhalation of dust and/or liquid mists may irritate, inflame or sensitise the nose, throat and lungs resulting in illness ranging from hayfever or asthma, to pneumonia (eg Legionnaire's disease) or pneumonia-like illness. Direct contact with this material or its dust and/or liquid mists (bioaerosols) may cause skin irritation (dermatitis), and skin or eye infection or irritation. People particularly at risk are those suffering from asthma or allergies, and those whose immune defence systems are compromised.

SAFETY:

Avoid contact with eyes or skin.
Avoid breathing dust and/or liquid mists (bioaerosols).
Wear suitable protective clothing and standard duty gloves (AS 2161).
If exposed to dust and/or liquid mists, also wear dust resistant eye protection (AS/NZS 1338) and particulate respirator (AS/NZS 1715 and 1716).
Wash thoroughly immediately after handling.

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Wash work clothes regularly.
Clean up by wet sweeping or vacuuming.
Store this product in a cool location.

FIRST AID:

Irrigate eyes with plenty of water for 10 minutes.
Wash skin with soap and water.
Seek medical attention for any persistent skin, eye or respiratory symptoms.

DISPOSAL:

Follow above safety precautions and collect in containers for disposal as trade waste in accordance with local authority guidelines.

MANUFACTURER:

RichEarth

Contact Point

Further information may be obtained by contacting RichEarth by:

Postal Address

PO Box 500
Tuncurry NSW 2428

Phone 1300 579 278

Emergency Telephone:

Poisons Information Centre: 13 11 26

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