



## Section 1 - Identification of The Material and Supplier

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**Chemical nature:** Vermiculite is an expanded (by heat) mineral.  
**Trade Name:** **Searles Vermiculite**  
**Product Code:** MVEB, BVEB  
**Product Use:** Used for gardens, hydroponics and other horticultural purposes.  
**Creation Date:** **June, 2007**  
**This version issued:** **June, 2021** 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 and IMDG/IMSBC criteria.

**SUSMP Classification:** None allocated.

**ADG Classification:** None allocated. Not a Dangerous Good under the ADG Code.

**UN Number:** None allocated

**GHS Signal word: NONE. Not hazardous.**

### PREVENTION

P102: Keep out of reach of children.

P262: Do not get in eyes, on skin, or on clothing.

P281: Use personal protective equipment as required.

### RESPONSE

P337: If eye irritation persists: seek medical attention.

P352: Wash with plenty of soap and water.

P301+P330+P331: IF SWALLOWED: Rinse mouth. Do NOT induce vomiting.

P370+P378: Not combustible. Use extinguishing media suited to burning materials.

### STORAGE

P402+P404: Store in a dry place. Store in a closed container.

### DISPOSAL

P501: If product can not be recycled, consider controlled incineration, or contact a specialist waste disposal company (see Section 13 of this SDS).

## Emergency Overview

**Physical Description & Colour:** Odourless, golden-brown concertina-shaped 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	pure *	not set	not set

\* Commercially pure. Minerals are rarely chemically pure.

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

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### 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:** First aid is not generally required. If in doubt, contact a Poisons Information Centre or a doctor.

**Skin Contact:** Gently brush away excess solids. Irritation is unlikely. However, if irritation does occur, flush with lukewarm, gently flowing water 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.

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## Section 5 - Fire Fighting Measures

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**Fire and Explosion Hazards:** 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 products at temperatures normally achieved in a fire.

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

**Fire Fighting:** When fighting fires involving significant quantities of this product, no special equipment is believed to be necessary.

**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.

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## Section 6 - Accidental Release Measures

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**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 cotton, rubber, PVC. 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 eg silica & asbestos.

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.

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## Section 7 - Handling and Storage

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**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:** 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

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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>)**

Exposure limits have not been established by SWA for this product.

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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:** No special ventilation requirements are normally necessary for this product. However make sure that the work environment remains clean and that dusts are minimised.

**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:** The information at hand indicates that this product is not harmful and that normally no special skin protection is necessary. However, we suggest that you routinely avoid contact with all chemical products and that you wear suitable gloves (preferably elbow-length) when skin contact is likely.

**Protective Material Types:** We suggest that protective clothing be made from the following materials: cotton, rubber, PVC.

**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 eg silica & asbestos.

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## Section 9 - Physical and Chemical Properties:

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<b>Physical Description &amp; colour:</b>	Odourless, golden-brown concertina-shaped granules.
<b>Odour:</b>	No odour.
<b>Boiling Point:</b>	Not available.
<b>Freezing/Melting Point:</b>	1300°C
<b>Volatiles:</b>	No specific data. Expected to be low at 100°C.
<b>Vapour Pressure:</b>	Negligible at normal ambient temperatures.
<b>Vapour Density:</b>	No data.
<b>Specific Gravity:</b>	2.5 approx
<b>Water Solubility:</b>	Insoluble.
<b>pH:</b>	No data.
<b>Volatility:</b>	Negligible at normal ambient temperatures.
<b>Odour Threshold:</b>	No data.
<b>Evaporation Rate:</b>	No data.
<b>Coeff Oil/water Distribution:</b>	No data
<b>Autoignition temp:</b>	Not applicable - does not burn.

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## Section 10 - Stability and Reactivity

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**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:** None known.

**Incompatibilities:** No particular Incompatibilities.

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

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

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## Section 11 - Toxicological Information

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**Local Effects:**

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

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## Classification of Hazardous Ingredients

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Ingredient

Risk Phrases

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

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## Potential Health Effects

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**Inhalation:**

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

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**Skin Contact:**

**Short Term Exposure:** Available data indicates that this product is not harmful. It should present no hazards in normal use. In addition product is unlikely to cause any discomfort in normal use.

**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 mildly irritating to mucous membranes but is unlikely to cause anything more than mild 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:** No significant ingredient is classified as carcinogenic by NTP.

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

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## Section 12 - Ecological Information

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This product is unlikely to adversely effect the environment.

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## Section 13 - Disposal Considerations

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**Disposal:** Dispose of small quantities and empty containers by wrapping with paper and putting in garbage. For larger quantities, if recycling or reclaiming is not possible, use a commercial waste disposal service.

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## Section 14 - Transport Information

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**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.

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## Section 15 - Regulatory Information

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**AICS:** This product is compliant with NICNAS regulations.

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## Section 16 - Other Information

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**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, 7th 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
<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.

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## SAFETY DATA SHEET

This SDS is prepared in accord with the SWA document "Preparation of Safety Data Sheets for Hazardous Chemicals - Code of Practice" (Feb 2016)

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**SAFETY DATA SHEET**