

MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

PLYWOOD AND WOOD BASED SHEET MATERIALS

HEALTH HAZARD DATA:

1. Dust Inhalation:
No distinction is made regarding individual timber species as listed in Schedule 1 of the COSHH Regulations. Hardwood dust has been assigned a maximum exposure limit of 5 mg/m³. Softwood dust has yet to be assigned a maximum exposure limit but a guidance level of 5 mg/m³ has been set. General exposure to Hardwood and Softwood dust is liable to cause irritation to nose and throat.
2. Eye contact:
Dust particles may cause irritation on contact.
3. Skin contact:
Dust particles or splinters that come into contact with or enter the skin may cause irritation.
4. Ingestion:
May be harmful if particles are swallowed.
5. Formaldehyde:
Most composite sheet materials contain a Formaldehyde based glue, typically made up as follows: -

Phenol Formaldehyde Resin	-	About 81 %
Fillers and Hardeners	-	About 14 %
Water	-	About 5 %

Under certain conditions low level Formaldehyde emissions may occur. These generally fall well below the maximum exposure limit of 2ppm.

Formaldehyde emissions below 1ppm are usually clearly indicated by a strong unpleasant odour, which provides a useful indication of its presence. Should this occur, it is important to ventilate the area adequately.