

PICRIC ACID

Hazard Description

Picric acid is a pale yellow, odorless crystal that is slightly soluble in water. Picric acid is toxic if swallowed, inhaled, or absorbed through the skin. Inhalation of dust may cause lung damage. Chronic exposure may cause liver or kidney damage. It is irritating to the skin and eyes.

Prior to Use of Picric Acid

- Develop an SOP which includes regular testing and inspection of picric acid, and train on it.
- Ensure that all required materials are available in case of spill, emergency, and waste collection.

Handling

- Do not use metal spatulas to remove picric acid. Do not place in metal containers or containers with metal lids and keep away from all other sources of ignition.
- Use picric acid in a fume hood.
- Whether handling the moistened solid or a solution, clean the bottleneck, cap, and threads with a wet cloth before resealing. Collect the used cloth in a plastic or glass container and label as hazardous waste. Ensure that the material is thoroughly wetted.
- Picric acid should be disposed as a hazardous waste within 2 years of initial receipt.
- For small spills, follow as per spill procedures, in addition, remove all ignition sources.

Emergency Procedures

Always review SDS of purchased product for manufacture specific recommendations. Look at SDS for other modes of exposure.

Contacts	
Emergency: 911 UW Special Constables: 519-888-4911 or ext. 22222 Poison Control: 1-800-268-9017	
Whenever 911 is called, if possible, UW Special Constables should also be informed to make them aware of the emergency on campus and allow them to support as needed. Ask them to meet the paramedics and direct them to the incident location.	
Inhalation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remove individual from contaminated area• Call 911 for transport to hospital• Perform CPR and artificial respiration if necessary
Skin Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call 911 for transport to hospital• Remove contaminated clothing and quickly but gently wipe material off skin• Flush with water
Eye Contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Call 911 for transport to hospital• Flush eyes using eyewash station for a minimum of 15 minutes

Storage

Storage Group K (**Picric Acid <10% water**) – Explosive and Other Highly Reactive

Hazardous Waste (Only Specialized Information)

- Must be disposed of through the ESF as per the [University's Hazardous Waste Standard](#).
- Contact esf@uwaterloo.ca prior to bringing down any explosives to the ESF.