

Material Safety Data Sheet

COMPOSTS, POTTING MIXES, AND OTHER ORGANIC GARDENING MATERIALS

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

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

Product Identification

PRODUCT NAME:	Compost, Potting Mix, Mulches, Other Organic Gardening Materials
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
MOLECULAR WEIGHT:	Not applicable
SPECIFIC GRAVITY:	Varies according to composition and moisture content.
SOLUBILITY IN WATER:	Not soluble
PH:	4.8 to 8.0
INGREDIENTS:	Composts, potting mixes and other organic gardening materials are made by blending naturally occurring materials including: plant mulch, top soil, sand, pine bark, peat, wood dust, manure and mushroom compost. The materials contain a variety of living micro-organisms, including bacteria, fungi and protozoa.

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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 skin 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 illnesses ranging from hayfever and asthma to pneumonia (eg Legionnaire's disease) and pneumonia-like illnesses. The elderly, those with pre-existing respiratory diseases, and the immuno compromised 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.
Eye:	Flush eyes thoroughly for ten minutes with plenty of water. If irritation persists seek medical attention.
Skin:	Wash thoroughly with mild soap and water.
Inhaled:	Remove to fresh air.
Advice to Doctor:	Treat symptomatically.

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Precautions for Use

Exposure Standards

Worksafe Australia Exposure Standard:	There is no specific standard for composts and potting mixes.
Soilco Pty Ltd recommendation:	Keep exposures to dust and/or liquid mists (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. Wash 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

Safe Handling Information

Storage and transport:	No special transport requirements are necessary. Store composts, potting mixes, and other organic gardening 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:	Soilco Pty Ltd recommends that all work areas be non-smoking areas.

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LABELLING REQUIREMENTS (AS4454 – 1999)

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 fertilizer additives.

RISK:

This product is made from organic materials, including composted green organics and contains living micro organisms, including bacteria, fungi and protozoa. May also contain mineral and fertiliser additives. We advise that organic compost and composted mulches produced from green organics may contain minimal levels of contaminant materials (eg: plastic/ pater/ glass/ metal sharps etc.) Metal sharps could include nails, screws, wire, hypodermic syringes etc. Precautionary measures such as the wearing of goves and enclosed footwear is recommended.

As processors we endeavour to minimise the level of contamination by processing to the best practive guidelines and the relevant Australian Standard. By purchasing products that are certified to the Australian Standard the customer can be confident that any level of contamination will be below established guidelines.

SAFETY:

Avoid contact with eyes and 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 1336) and particulate respirator (AS/NZS 1715 and 1716).
Wash thoroughly immediately after handling.
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:

Soilco Pty Ltd

CONTACT POINT

Further information may be obtained from:

Soilco Pty Ltd: PO Box 199, NSW 2526 | Phone: 02 4252 9100 | Fax: 02 4261 1196

Emergency Telephone: Poisons Information Centre: (02) 9692 6111

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