

State of the Art Ingredients • Fast Friendly Service

Borax

SECTION 1 :: PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION

Product Name:	Borax
Description/Use:	Personal Care
INCI Name:	Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate
Material:	Sodium tetraborate Pentahydrate Composition >99%

SECTION 2 :: COMPOSITION ON INGREDIENTS

Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate is hazardous under the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard based on animal chronic toxicity studies of similar organic Borates.

SECTION 3 :: HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Classification

Health = 0 Flammability = 0 Reactivity = 0

Hazardous Materials Information System (HMIS)

Blue (Acute Health) = 1

Red (Flammability) = 0

Yellow (Reactivity) = 0

Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate is chemical and toxicologically related to Boric Acid; the majority of the Borate chronic toxicology studies were conducted using Boric Acid. Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate equivalent data by dividing by a factor of 0.8490.

Emergency Overview: Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate is a white odorless, powdered substance that is not flammable, combustible, or explosive, and it presents no unusual hazard if involved in a fire.

Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate presents little or no hazard (to humans) and has low acute oral and dermal toxicities. Care should be taken to minimize the amount of Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate released to the environment to avoid ecological effects. Routes of exposure: In the occupation setting, inhalation is the most important route of exposure. Dermal absorption is usually not important because Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate is not absorbed through intact skin.

Health effects::

Eyes: Exposure to Borate dust does not cause eye irritation in normal industrial use

– See Section 11 for details on Toxicological Data.

Skin: Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate is non-irritating to the intact skin. Can be readily absorbed through broken or abraded skin.

Inhalation: Mild irritation to nose and throat may occur when the PEL or TLV are exceeded (see section 15).

Ingestion: Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate is not intended for ingestion. Amounts greater than one teaspoonful, when ingested, may cause gastrointestinal problems.

Cancer: Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate is not considered a carcinogen.

Reproductive: A human study of occupationally exposed Borate worker population showed no adverse reproductive effects. Animal studies of similar organic Borates demonstrated reproductive effects in

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State of the Art Ingredients • Fast Friendly Service

Borax

males.

Target organs: no target organs have been determined in humans. High dose animal ingestion studies indicate that the testes is the target organ.

Signs and symptoms of exposure: Symptoms of accidental overexposure to Borates have been associated with ingestion or absorption through large areas of damaged skin. These may include nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, with delayed effects of skin redness and peeling.

Product Label Text Information:

May be harmful if swallowed.

May cause reproductive harm or birth defects based on animal data.

Avoid contamination of food or feed.

Not for food, drug or pesticidal use.

Practice good housekeeping.

Refer to MSDS.

KEEP OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN.

SECTION 4 :: FIRST AID MEASURES

Eyes: Continuously flush exposed eyes, occasionally lifting the upper and lower lids. Get medical attention if irritation persists.

Skin: Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate is non-irritating in the normal occupational setting. If irritation occurs, wash affected area with soap or mild detergent and large amounts of water. Get medical attention if irritation persists.

Inhalation: no specific treatment is necessary since Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate is not likely to be hazardous by inhalation. Prolonged exposure to dust levels in excess of regulatory limits should always be avoided.

Ingestion: If amounts greater than one teaspoon are swallowed, give two glasses of water to drink and seek medical attention.

Note to Physician: Adult ingestion of a few grams requires observation only. For ingestion in greater than 6 grams, maintain adequate kidney function and force fluids. Gastric lavage is recommended for symptomatic patients only. Hemodialysis should be reserved for massive acute ingestion or patients with renal failure. Boron analysis of urine or blood is useful only for documenting exposure and should not be used for evaluating severity of poisoning or to guide treatment. (additional reference: Litovitz, T.L., Norman, S.A., Veltri, J.C., Annual Report of the American Association of Poison Control Centers Data Collection System, AM. J. of Emergency Med. 1986; 4; 427-458)

SECTION 5 :: FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

General Hazard: Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate is not flammable, combustible, or explosive. Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate presents no unusual hazards when involved in a fire. This product is an inherent fire retardant.

Flash Point: Not Applicable

Flammable – LEL: Not Applicable

Flammable – UEL: Not Applicable

State of the Art Ingredients • Fast Friendly Service

Borax

Fire and Explosion Hazards: Not applicable

Extinguishing media: Any fire extinguishing media may be used on nearby fires Fire fighting Equipment/Instructions: not applicable

Autoignition temperature: Not Applicable

SECTION 6 :: ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

Spill and Leak procedures:: Borates may damage trees and vegetation (see Ecological Information, Section 12, for further information). For dry spills, sweep, vacuum or shovel and place in containers for disposal in accordance with applicable regulations (refer to Sections 13 and 15 for additional references and information regarding California and EPA regulations). Avoid contamination of bodies of water during cleanup.

Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate will cause localized contamination of surrounding waters depending on amount dissolved in these waters. Some damage to local vegetation, fish, and other aquatic life may be expected (see Section 12). Under usual conditions, no protective equipment is required. Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate is a non-hazardous waste when spilled or disposed of, as defined in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) regulations (40 CFR 261). (See Section 15).

SECTION 7 :: HANDLING AND STORAGE

General: Dry, indoor storage under normal atmospheric conditions is recommended. To maintain package integrity and to minimize caking of the product, bags should be handled on a $\frac{2}{7}$ first-in-first-out $\frac{2}{2}$ basis. Good housekeeping should be maintained to minimize dust accumulation and generation. Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate may cake in moist conditions.

Hygienic practices: Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water after handling and before eating, drinking or smoking..

SECTION 8 :: EXPOSURE CONTROLS AND PERSONAL PROTECTION

Engineering controls: Use local exhaust ventilation to keep airborne levels below exposure limits.

Personal Protective equipment:

Respiratory: Use appropriate NIOSH/MSHA certified respirators when levels are expected to exceed exposure limits (see Section 15)

Eyes: Use goggles or ventilated safety glasses in excessively dusty conditions

Skin: Not required under normal conditions. Use if excessively dusty or if skin is damaged.

State of the Art Ingredients • Fast Friendly Service

Borax

SECTION 9 :: PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

Boiling point:	Not Applicable
Specific Gravity:	1.82
Solubility in Water:	3.7% at 20°C, 50.1% at 100°C
Molecular Weight:	291.29
Freezing Point:	Not Applicable
Melting Point:	Begins losing water of crystallization at 128°C, and converts to the anhydrous form which fuses at 742°C
Evaporation Rate:	Not Applicable
Vapor pressure:	not applicable
pH value:	at 20° 1% solution $\frac{3}{8}$ 9.24
% volatiles by volume:	not applicable
Vapor Density:	not applicable
Appearance and Odor:	white granular solid, odorless
Flash Point:	none
Chemical Stability:	stable under normal conditions, forms partial hydrate in moist air.
Conditions to avoid if unstable:	not available

Incompatibility with other materials: Reaction with strong reducing agents such as metal hydrides or alkali metals will generate hydrogen gas which could create an explosive hazard.

Hazardous polymerization:	will not occur
Hazardous decomposition products:	none known
Conditions to avoid:	not available

SECTION 10 :: STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

General: Borax is a stable product, but when heated it loses water, eventually forming anhydrous borax (na2B3O7).

Hazardous decomposition: None

Incompatible materials and conditions to avoid: Reaction with strong reducing agents, such as metal hydrides or alkali metals, will generate hydrogen gas, which could create an explosive hazard.

SECTION 11 :: TOXICOLOGY INFORMATION

Note: Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate is chemically and toxicologically related to Boric Acid; the majority of the Borate chronic toxicology studies were conducted using Boric Acid. Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate is converted to Boric Acid in biological systems. The Boric Acid data discussed in this section can be converted to Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate equivalent data by dividing by a factor of 0.8490.

Eyes: Boric Acid, when applied to the eyes of albino rabbits (Draize test) produced effects of mild erythema, and mild to moderate discharge in 5 of 6 rabbits. All signs subsided by the fourth day after

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application. Fifty years of occupational exposure history indicates no human eye injury from exposure to Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate.

Skin: Boric Acid was applied to the skin of albino rabbits. Slight to no irritation persisted 72 hours after application. No evidence of tissue damage was found. Low acute dermal toxicity of Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate; LD50 for rabbits is expected to be greater than 2,000 mg/kg of body weight (test conducted per 16 CFR 1500.41). Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate is not absorbed through intact skin.

Inhalation: Human epidemiological studies show no increase in pulmonary disease in occupational populations with chronic exposure to Boric Acid and Sodium Borate dust. Ingestion: Low acute oral toxicity; LD50 for Sprague-Dawley rats is 3,200 to 3,400 mg/kg of body weight. Carcinogenicity: Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate is not listed as a carcinogen by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the State of California, or the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). A report issued by the National Toxicology Program showed $\frac{2}{3}$ no evidence of carcinogenicity $\frac{2}{3}$ from a full two-year bioassay on Boric Acid on mice at feed doses of 2,500 to 5,000 ppm in the diet. No mutagenic activity was observed for Boric Acid in a recent battery of four short-term mutagenicity assays.

Reproductive: A human study of occupationally exposed Borate worker population showed no adverse reproductive effects. Animal studies indicate that Boric Acid reduces or inhibits sperm production, causes testicular atrophy, and, when given to pregnant animals during gestation, may cause developmental changes. These feed studies were conducted under chronic exposure conditions leading to doses many times in excess of those that could occur through inhalation of dust in the occupational setting.

Dietary levels of Boric Acid of 6,700 ppm in chronic feeding studies in rats and dogs produced testicular changes (Weir, Fisher, 1972). In chronic feeding studies of mice on diets containing 5,000 ppm Boric Acid, testicular atrophy was present, while mice fed 2,500 ppm Boric Acid showed no significant increase in testicular atrophy. In another chronic Boric Acid study, degeneration of seminiferous tubules was present together with reduction of germ cells in mice fed 4,500 ppm Boric Acid. In a continuous breeding study in mice, there was a reduction in fertility rates in males receiving 4,500 ppm Boric Acid, but not for females receiving 4,500 ppm Boric Acid (Fail et al., 1992).

Boric Acid dietary levels of 1,000 ppm administered to pregnant female rats throughout gestation caused a slight reduction in fetal weight, but was considered close to NOAEL. Doses of 2,000 ppm and above caused fetal malformations and maternal toxicity. In mice, the no effect level for fetal weight reduction and maternal toxicity was 1,000 ppm Boric Acid. Fetal weight loss was noted at dietary levels of 2,000 ppm and above. Malformations (agenesis or shortening of the thirteenth rib) were seen at 4,000 ppm (Heindal et al., 1992).

SECTION 12 :: ECOLOGY INFORMATION

Note: Boron is the element in Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate which is used to characterize Borate product ecological effects. To convert Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate data to Boron, multiply by 0.1484.

Fish Toxicity: Boron naturally occurs in seawater at an average concentration of 5 mg B/liter. In laboratory studies the acute toxicity (96-hr LC50) for under yearling

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Coho salmon (*Onchortynchus klsutch*) in seawater was determined as 40 mg B/liter (added as Sodium Metalborate). The Minimum Leathe Dose for minnows exposed to Boric Acid at 20°C for 6 hours is 18,000 to 19,000 mg/B/l in distilled water, 19,000-19,500 in hard water.

Rainbow trout (*S. gairdneri*)
24-day LC50=150.0 mg/B/L
36-day NOEC-LOEC = .75-1 mg/B/L
Goldfish (*Carassius auratus*)
7-day NOEC-LOEC = 26.50 mg/B/L
3-day LC50 = 178 mg/B/L

Bird Toxicity: Dietary levels of 100 mg/kg resulted in reduced growth of female mallards. As little as 30 mg/kg fed to mallard adults adversely affected the growth rate of offspring.

Invertebrate Toxicity:

Daphnids
48-hour LC50 = 133 mg/B/L

Phytotoxicity: Although boron is an essential micro-nutrient for healthy growth of plants, in can be harmful to boron-sensitive plants quantities. Plants and tees can easily be exposed by root absorption to toxic levels of boron in the form of water soluble Borate leached into nearby waters or soil. Care should be taken to minimize the amount of boron release to the environment.

Environmental Fate Data: Persistence/Degradation: Boron is naturally occurring and is commonly found in the environment. Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate decomposes in the environment to natural Borate. Soil Mobility: The product is soluble in water and is leachable through normal soil. Note: Boron is the element in Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate which is used to characterize Borate product ecological effects. To convert Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate data to Boron, multiply by 0.1484.

SECTION 13 :: DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

Disposal Guidance: Small amounts of Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate can usually be disposed of at municipal landfill sites, and requires no special treatment. Tonnage quantities are not, however, recommended for the landfill, and if possible, should be re-used for an appropriate application. Refer to state and local regulations for applicable site-specific requirements. Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate is not currently listed under any sections of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

California Hazardous Waste Designation: California identifies substances with acute LD50 of less than 5,000 mg/kg as $\frac{2}{3}$ hazardous wastes³. Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate is, therefore, a hazardous waste³ if spilled in California, and should be handled in accordance with applicable state regulations.

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SECTION 14 :: TRANSPORT INFORMATION

US Department of Transportation (DOT) Identification Number: Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate is NOT a DOT Hazardous Material or Hazardous Substance.

International Transportation: Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate has no U.N number, and is not regulated under international rail, highway, water or air transport regulations.

SECTION 14 :: REGULATIONS

United States Toxic Substance Control Act (TSCA): 1330-43-4 (anhydrous)
RCRA (40 CFR 261): not listed under any section
CERCLA (Superfund): not listed under any section
Clean Water Act (CWA): Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate is not regulated by any water quality criteria under Section 304, is not listed as priority pollutant under Section 307, and is not listed as a hazardous substance under Section 311.
Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA): Not regulated under SDWA, 42 USC 300g-1, 40 CFR 141 et seq. Consult state and local regulations for possible water quality advisories involving boron.

Occupational Exposure Limits: Sodium Tetraborate Pentahydrate is listed/regulated by OSHA, CAL OSHA, and ACGIH
OSHA: Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL): 10 mg/m³
ACGIH: Threshold Limit Value (TLV): 1 mg/m³
California OSHA: Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL): 5 mg/m³
International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC): Not listed as a carcinogen
NTP Annual Report on Carcinogens: Not listed as a carcinogen
OSHA Carcinogen: Not listed as an OSHA carcinogen
CONEG Model Legislation: Meets all the CONEG requirements relating to heavy metal limitations on components of packaging materials.
Clean Air Act (CAA): This product was not manufactured with and does not contain any Class 1 or Class II ozone depleting substances, as defined by EPA.
California Proposition 65: not listed as a carcinogen or reproductive toxin. Warning $\frac{3}{8}$ this product contains trace amounts of arsenic. Arsenic is known to the State of California to cause cancer, reproductive harm or birth defects



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