

MSDS Number: P5609 \* \* \* \* \* Effective Date: 01/16/06 \* \* \* \* \* Supercedes: 02/12/04



**Material Safety Data Sheet**

From: Mallinckrodt Baker, Inc.  
222 Red School Lane  
Phillipsburg, NJ 08865



24 Hour Emergency Telephone: 908-859-2151  
CHEMTREC: 1-800-424-9300

National Response in Canada  
CANUTEC: 613-996-6666

Outside U.S. and Canada  
Chemtrec: 703-527-3887

NOTE: CHEMTREC, CANUTEC and National Response Center emergency numbers to be used only in the event of chemical emergencies involving a spill, leak, fire, exposure or accident involving chemicals.

All non-emergency questions should be directed to Customer Service (1-800-562-2537) for assistance.

# POTASSIUM CARBONATE

## 1. Product Identification

**Synonyms:** Pearl ash; potash; carbonic acid, dipotassium salt; salt of tartar

**CAS No.:** 584-08-7

**Molecular Weight:** 138.21

**Chemical Formula:** K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>

**Product Codes:**

J.T. Baker: 3011, 3012, 3014, 6056

Mallinckrodt: 0436, 4674, 6790, 6814, 6844

## 2. Composition/Information on Ingredients

Ingredient	CAS No	Percent	Hazardous
Potassium Carbonate	584-08-7	99 - 100%	Yes

## 3. Hazards Identification

### Emergency Overview

**WARNING! CAUSES IRRITATION TO SKIN, EYES AND RESPIRATORY TRACT. MAY BE HARMFUL IF SWALLOWED.****SAF-T-DATA<sup>(tm)</sup>** Ratings (Provided here for your convenience)  
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Health Rating: 2 - Moderate

Flammability Rating: 0 - None

Reactivity Rating: 1 - Slight

Contact Rating: 3 - Severe

Lab Protective Equip: GOGGLES & SHIELD; LAB COAT & APRON; VENT HOOD;  
PROPER GLOVESStorage Color Code: Green (General Storage)  
-----**Potential Health Effects**  
-----**Inhalation:**

Causes irritation to the respiratory tract. Symptoms may include coughing, shortness of breath.

**Ingestion:**

Causes irritation to the gastrointestinal tract. Symptoms may include nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. May have moderate toxic effects if consumed in large enough quantities. Ingestion of large amounts may be corrosive to mouth, throat and GI tract and produce abdominal pains, vomiting, diarrhea, and circulatory collapse.

**Skin Contact:**

Contact with dry material causes irritation. In aqueous solution it is a strong caustic and as such may have corrosive effects on the skin.

**Eye Contact:**

Causes extreme irritation, redness, pain and possibly corneal damage.

**Chronic Exposure:**

A chronic dermatitis may follow repeated contact with this substance.

**Aggravation of Pre-existing Conditions:**No information found.  
-----**4. First Aid Measures****Inhalation:**

Remove to fresh air. If not breathing, give artificial respiration. If breathing is difficult, give oxygen. Get medical attention.

**Ingestion:**

If swallowed, DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING. Give large quantities of water. Never give anything by mouth to an unconscious person. Get medical attention immediately.

**Skin Contact:**

Immediately flush skin with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes. Remove contaminated clothing and shoes. Get medical attention. Wash clothing before reuse. Thoroughly clean shoes before reuse.

**Eye Contact:**

Immediately flush eyes with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes, lifting lower and upper eyelids occasionally. Get medical attention immediately.

## 5. Fire Fighting Measures

**Fire:**

Not considered to be a fire hazard.

**Explosion:**

Not considered to be an explosion hazard. An explosion occurred after mixing sodium hydrosulfite, aluminum powder, potassium carbonate and benzaldehyde.

**Fire Extinguishing Media:**

Use any means suitable for extinguishing surrounding fire.

**Special Information:**

In the event of a fire, wear full protective clothing and NIOSH-approved self-contained breathing apparatus with full facepiece operated in the pressure demand or other positive pressure mode.

## 6. Accidental Release Measures

Ventilate area of leak or spill. Wear appropriate personal protective equipment as specified in Section 8. Spills: Pick up and place in a suitable container for reclamation or disposal, using a method that does not generate dust.

## 7. Handling and Storage

Keep in a tightly closed container, stored in a cool, dry, ventilated area. Protect against physical damage. Isolate from incompatible substances. Containers of this material may be hazardous when empty since they retain product residues (dust, solids); observe all warnings and precautions listed for the product.

## 8. Exposure Controls/Personal Protection

**Airborne Exposure Limits:**

None established.

**Ventilation System:**

A system of local and/or general exhaust is recommended to keep employee exposures as low as possible. Local exhaust ventilation is generally preferred because it can control the emissions of the contaminant at its source, preventing dispersion of it into the general work area. Please refer to the ACGIH document, *Industrial Ventilation, A Manual of*

*Recommended Practices*, most recent edition, for details.

**Personal Respirators (NIOSH Approved):**

For conditions of use where exposure to dust or mist is apparent and engineering controls are not feasible, a particulate respirator (NIOSH type N95 or better filters) may be worn. If oil particles (e.g. lubricants, cutting fluids, glycerine, etc.) are present, use a NIOSH type R or P filter. For emergencies or instances where the exposure levels are not known, use a full-face positive-pressure, air-supplied respirator. **WARNING:** Air-purifying respirators do not protect workers in oxygen-deficient atmospheres.

**Skin Protection:**

Wear impervious protective clothing, including boots, gloves, lab coat, apron or coveralls, as appropriate, to prevent skin contact.

**Eye Protection:**

Use chemical safety goggles and/or full face shield where dusting or splashing of solutions is possible. Maintain eye wash fountain and quick-drench facilities in work area.

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## 9. Physical and Chemical Properties

**Appearance:**

Fine white granules.

**Odor:**

Odorless.

**Solubility:**

Soluble in equal parts of cold water.

**Specific Gravity:**

2.29

**pH:**

11.6 Aqueous solution

**% Volatiles by volume @ 21C (70F):**

0

**Boiling Point:**

Decomposes.

**Melting Point:**

891C (1636F)

**Vapor Density (Air=1):**

No information found.

**Vapor Pressure (mm Hg):**

No information found.

**Evaporation Rate (BuAc=1):**

No information found.

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## 10. Stability and Reactivity

**Stability:**

Stable under ordinary conditions of use and storage.

**Hazardous Decomposition Products:**

Contact with acids and involvement in a fire can cause formation of carbon dioxide.

Thermal decomposition may also form potassium oxide.

**Hazardous Polymerization:**

Will not occur.

**Incompatibilities:**

Acids, chlorine trifluoride, magnesium. An explosion occurred after mixing sodium hydrosulfite, aluminum powder, potassium carbonate and benzaldehyde.

**Conditions to Avoid:**

Moisture, heat, dusting and incompatibles.

## 11. Toxicological Information

Oral rat LD50: 1870 mg/kg.

Ingredient	---NTP Carcinogen---		IARC Category
	Known	Anticipated	
Potassium Carbonate (584-08-7)	No	No	None

## 12. Ecological Information

**Environmental Fate:**

No information found.

**Environmental Toxicity:**

No information found.

## 13. Disposal Considerations

Whatever cannot be saved for recovery or recycling should be managed in an appropriate and approved waste disposal facility. Processing, use or contamination of this product may change the waste management options. State and local disposal regulations may differ from federal disposal regulations. Dispose of container and unused contents in accordance with federal, state and local requirements.

## 14. Transport Information

Not regulated.

## 15. Regulatory Information

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-----\Chemical Inventory Status - Part 1\-----
Ingredient                                     TSCA  EC   Japan  Australia
-----
Potassium Carbonate (584-08-7)                Yes  Yes   Yes    Yes
    
```

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-----\Chemical Inventory Status - Part 2\-----
Ingredient                                     Korea  DSL   NDSL   Phil.
-----
Potassium Carbonate (584-08-7)                Yes   Yes   No     Yes
    
```

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-----\Federal, State & International Regulations - Part 1\-----
Ingredient                                     -SARA 302-  -SARA 313-
RQ      TPQ      List  Chemical Catg.
-----
Potassium Carbonate (584-08-7)                No    No    No     No
    
```

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-----\Federal, State & International Regulations - Part 2\-----
Ingredient                                     CERCLA  -RCRA-  -TSCA-
                                     261.33  8(d)
-----
Potassium Carbonate (584-08-7)                No      No      No
    
```

Chemical Weapons Convention: No      TSCA 12(b): No      CDTA: No  
 SARA 311/312: Acute: Yes      Chronic: No      Fire: No      Pressure: No  
 Reactivity: No      (Pure / Solid)

**Australian Hazchem Code:** None allocated.

**Poison Schedule:** None allocated.

**WHMIS:**

This MSDS has been prepared according to the hazard criteria of the Controlled Products Regulations (CPR) and the MSDS contains all of the information required by the CPR.

## 16. Other Information

**NFPA Ratings:** Health: **2** Flammability: **0** Reactivity: **0**

**Label Hazard Warning:**

WARNING! CAUSES IRRITATION TO SKIN, EYES AND RESPIRATORY TRACT.  
 MAY BE HARMFUL IF SWALLOWED.

**Label Precautions:**

- Avoid breathing dust.
- Avoid contact with eyes, skin and clothing.
- Keep container closed.
- Use only with adequate ventilation.
- Wash thoroughly after handling.

**Label First Aid:**

If swallowed, DO NOT INDUCE VOMITING. Give large quantities of water. Never give

anything by mouth to an unconscious person. If inhaled, remove to fresh air. If not breathing, give artificial respiration. If breathing is difficult, give oxygen. In case of contact, immediately flush eyes or skin with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes. Remove contaminated clothing and shoes. Wash clothing before reuse. In all cases, get medical attention.

**Product Use:**

Laboratory Reagent.

**Revision Information:**

MSDS Section(s) changed since last revision of document include: 3.

**Disclaimer:**

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