







Salicylic acid, aspirin, salol, oil of wintergreen

2-hydroxybenzoic acid, 2-ethanoyloxybenzoic acid, phenyl 2-hydroxybenzoate, methyl 2-hydroxybenzoate

Substance	Hazard	Comment
2-hydroxybenzoic acid (Salicylic acid) <i>solid</i>	  IRRITANT CORROSIVE	DANGER: causes serious eye damage; harmful if swallowed.
2-ethanoyloxybenzoic acid (Aspirin, <i>o</i> -acetylsalicylic acid) <i>solid</i>	 IRRITANT	WARNING: Causes skin and serious eye irritation; may cause respiratory irritation; harmful if swallowed. For a 15-minute exposure, the concentration in the atmosphere should not exceed 15 mg m ⁻³ . Aspirin (and other pain relief medicines) must not be sold in packs of more than 16, except in pharmacies where they can contain 32 tablets. It is illegal to sell more than 100 tablets or capsules in any one retail transaction. Used as a medication to treat pain, fever, and inflammation. Aspirin given shortly after a heart attack decreases the risk of death and is also used long-term to help prevent heart attacks, strokes, and blood clots, in people at high risk. Common side effects include an upset stomach. Aspirin can be extracted from the leaves of willow trees and has been used for its health effects for hundreds of years.
Phenyl 2-hydroxybenzoate (Salol, phenyl salicylate) <i>solid</i>	  IRRITANT ENVIRONMENT	WARNING: Causes skin and serious eye irritation; may cause respiratory irritation; may also be labelled toxic to aquatic life with long-lasting effects. Has a relatively low melting point (41 °C) so releases a significant amount of vapour when heated. Insert a mineral wool plug in test tubes to minimise escape of vapour and ensure good ventilation.
Methyl 2-hydroxybenzoate (Oil of wintergreen, methyl salicylate) <i>liquid</i>	 IRRITANT	WARNING: Causes skin and serious eye irritation; may cause respiratory irritation; harmful if swallowed. Used for pain relief, especially for muscles and joints where it is rubbed into the skin & flavouring agent in chewing gums, mints and mouth washes.

Typical control measures to reduce risk

- Use the smallest amount possible.
- Wear eye protection.
- Ensure good ventilation.

Assessing the risks

- **What are the details of the activity to be undertaken? What are the hazards?**
- **What is the chance of something going wrong?**
eg, specks of solid acid transferred into the eye, by rubbing with a contaminated finger.
- **How serious would it be if something did go wrong?**
- **How can the risk(s) be controlled for this activity?**
eg, can it be done safely? Does the procedure need to be altered? Should goggles or safety spectacles be worn?

Emergency action

- **In the eye** Flood the eye with gently-running tap water for 10 minutes. Consult a medic.
- **Swallowed** Do no more than wash out the mouth with drinking water. Do **not** induce vomiting. Consult a medic.
- **Spilt on the skin or clothing** Remove contaminated clothing. Then drench the skin with plenty of water.
- **Spilt on the floor, bench, etc** Wipe up small amounts with a damp cloth and rinse it well. Brush up larger amounts, trying to avoid raising dust. Rinse with plenty of water.