

Finding a SDS

Safety Data Sheets (SDS) contain data about the properties of a product. While SDS contain information helpful for consumers, their primary audience is not consumers, but employees who work with hazardous materials. Employers are required to have a SDS in the workplace for each hazardous material employees work with. If Company A sells a product to Company B, and the employees of Company B will be working with the product, then Company A is required to provide a SDS for the product to Company B.

There is no requirement for a retail outlet to provide a SDS for products they sell to consumers.

Consumers who want a SDS for a product have several options, listed below in the order they should be tried:

1. Search the Internet for the product SDS using Google or a similar search engine. This is the best and most efficient way to find a product SDS. For instance, a search on: *Behr paint SDS* pulls up a link to the Behr site, on which the SDS can be found.
2. Search the [Household Products Database from the NLM](#) which contains SDS for many common household products. Look for the link labeled "Complete SDS for this product."
3. Search the Internet for a site providing a compiled list of SDS ([here's an example](#)). Bookmarking such a site can be helpful if you have frequent need for SDS. Sites offering compiled lists of free SDS can be found by searching on: *finding free SDS* in Google or other search engines. **Beware**, not all the results of this search will provide free SDS. Some sites offer free *searching* for SDS, but then charge for the actual document.
4. Contact the company that produces the product and request an SDS. Some companies such as Scotts (Miracle Grow, Ortho, etc.) do not post the SDS online, but provide a phone number or email to request the SDS.
5. Ask at the retail outlet where the product was purchased. Although retailers are not required to provide SDS to consumers, they sometimes have copies. Retailers who work with employers are most likely to have the SDS. For instance a paint retailer who sells to a contractor with several paint crews may have an SDS for the paint products it sells.
6. Use a commercial SDS provider. There are many online companies who will provide SDS for a fee.