



**Control of Substances Hazardous to Health
Regulations 1994 Material Safety Data
EnviroWrap Building Products
EnviroWrap 200FR, 250FR, 300FR, 350FR & 400FR Sheeting Films**

Background

This data sheet describes the precautions that should be taken to safeguard Health & Safety when handling EnviroWrap Heat retractable EnviroWrap Sheeting Products. Its scope does not include the suitability of these products for specific applications.

Introduction

Polyethylene Films do not present any specific hazards to health and safety when used for their intended purpose in accordance with good standards of industrial hygiene and safe working practice.

1.0 Scrap or Waste Polythene

Scrap lengths of EnviroWrap film should always be placed in an appropriate receptacle and not left lying on the ground as this could cause people to lose their footing, which may lead to injury. Discarded scrap Polyethylene left loose will blow away and cause a litter problem. Unsecured scrap Polyethylene film could, if placed over the head, constitute a suffocation hazard to young children.

2.0 Potential Hazards

2.1. Food Contact: If the film is required to come into contact with food, then the materials used in the manufacture of these grades of film must meet the requirements for food contact usage of EEC, USA.

2.2. Toxicity: EnviroWrap is chemically non-reactive and regarded as being biologically inert.

2.3. Ingestion: Although EnviroWrap is inert and can be regarded as harmless, certain films do contain additives that may be harmful and ingestion is not recommended. In the unlikely event of accidental ingestion of EnviroWrap film, flake or dust, it is recommended that medical assistance be called.

2.4. Eye Contact: EnviroWrap flake dust or particles are not dangerous, however may cause eye irritation. In the event of flake or dust particles entering the eye, flush with cold water. If eye irritation continues or develops, medical assistance should be called. All publications are subject to revision and the latest edition should be consulted.

2.5. Skin Contact: Isolated cases of dermic symptoms have been associated with personnel handling plastic films, which have been attributed to very rare forms of allergy. The use of barrier creams and/or protective gloves can usually eliminate such problems, however, in extreme cases; the personnel concerned may need to be removed from such an environment.

2.6. Smoking, Eating & Drinking: Smoking, eating and drinking in working areas are not desirable practices and should be prohibited.

2.7. Static: EnviroWrap film can acquire static electrical charges under certain conditions. The rapid leaking of such charges to earth in the form of static sparks is potentially dangerous in areas where flame or explosion hazards exist.

3.0 Transportation, Handling and Storage

3.1. Handling: EnviroWrap films do not present an unusual hazard in handling. It is recommended that, when handling large reels, adequate lifting equipment be used.

3.2. Transportation: Rolls in bulk should be strapped and/or stretch wrapped securely on pallets.

3.3. Working & Storage Areas: Working and storage areas should be kept clean and tidy. Spillage of loose EnviroWrap on to the floor should be cleared immediately, so as to reduce the risks of falls. EnviroWrap films should be stored dry and shielded from direct sunlight. Indoor, unheated storage areas with natural ventilation are adequate. Badly stacked rolls, pallets, etc may slip and cause injury to personnel. Regular inspection is recommended.



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3.4. **Footwear:** Safety shoes should be worn at all times by all personnel involved in the handling and movement of EnviroWrap rolls.

3.5. **Ventilation:**

Adequate ventilation of work areas when heat sealing and shrinking is essential in order to minimise the reduction in oxygen concentration. Local exhaust ventilation should be considered in the vicinity of open gas burning & heating equipment. (See EnviroWrap Equipment Guide).

4.0 Fire

Should a fire occur where EnviroWrap has been stored or installed, any commonly available fire extinguishers may be used. Powder extinguishers are very effective in quenching flames, although they do not have the cooling ability required in a deep-seated fire, but the use of solid jets of water from fire hoses in the early stages of fire is not recommended since they could help to spread the flames. It is recommended that advice be sought from the local Fire Authority on fire-fighting equipment and procedures. EnviroWrap LPS 1207 Certified film is very unlikely to be a factor involved in a total fire situation and other materials will have their own particular hazards.

5.0 Flammability

Use of EnviroWrap FR – LPS 1207 & LPS 1215 Certified Products significantly reduces and in most cases eliminates the potential effects detailed below for non FR films.

When a *Non Fire Retardant* Low Density or Medium Density Polyethylene film is heated, melting will occur at 105°C - 115°C and decomposition will commence at about 300°C. When heated above this temperature in poorly ventilated areas, polythene films will pyrolyse oxidatively to produce carbon monoxide and water plus a small amount of various hydrocarbons and aldehydes. The evolved gases may ignite and provide heat that will accelerate pyrolysis and allow combustion of more polythene or any other combustible material in the vicinity. Burning is accompanied by the release of flaming molten droplets of polythene that could ignite adjacent flammable material. Carbonisation also occurs and some of the carbon is released as a soot. The main combustion product in flaming conditions is generally carbon dioxide, though lack of oxygen or rapid extinguishing of fire often leads to the smoke still containing appreciable quantities of carbon monoxide, acrolein and other toxic aldehydes. These comments can only be of a general nature; since the conditions experienced in a fire cannot be fully predicted and will depend on many factors.

6.0 Waste Disposal

Scrap Polythene & Polypropylene may be disposed of at approved landfill sites or by incineration under approved conditions. Polythene & Polypropylene film is recyclable and should be segregated. If in doubt about your legal requirements for the handling and storage of all controlled wastes under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, 'Duty of Care Regulations', contact your local Waste Disposal Authority.

7.0 Summary

The information contained in this Health and Safety Data Document relates only to the material described and is not valid for such material used in combination with any other materials or in any other process. Such information is, to the best of the Company's knowledge and belief, accurate and reliable. However, no representation, warranty or guarantee is made to its accuracy, reliability or completeness. It is the responsibility of the user to satisfy himself as to the suitability and completeness of such information for his own particular use.