Standard Operating Procedure

Talc (containing asbestos fibers)

*This is an SOP template and is not complete until: 1) lab specific information is entered into the box below 2) lab specific protocol/procedure is added to the protocol/procedure section and   
3) SOP has been signed and dated by the PI and relevant lab personnel.*

Print a copy and insert into your   
*Laboratory Safety Manual* and *Chemical Hygiene Plan*.   
Refer to instructions for assistance.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Department:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Date SOP was written:** | Click here to enter a date. |
| **Date SOP was approved by PI/lab supervisor:** | Click here to enter a date. |
| **Principal Investigator:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Internal Lab Safety Coordinator/Lab Manager:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Lab Phone:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Office Phone:** | Click here to enter text. |
| **Emergency Contact:** | Click here to enter text. |
| *(Name and Phone Number)* |
| **Location(s) covered by this SOP:** | Click here to enter text. |
| *(Building/Room Number)* |

**Type of SOP:** ☐ Process ☒Hazardous Chemical ☐ Hazardous Class

**Purpose**

Talc (containing asbestos fibers) is classified by IARC as Group 1, carcinogenic to humans. Prolonged exposure may cause lung cancer. Talc in pure form is a hydrous magnesium silicate. Depending on the ore source, it can be found mixed with different types of asbestos including tremolite, actinolite, and anthophyllite. Exposure to low-grade talc may cause talco-asbestosis, which have symptoms similar to asbestosis.

**Physical & Chemical Properties/Definition of Chemical Group**

CAS#: 14807-96-6 (talc), 77536-68-6 (tremolite), 77536-66-4 (actinolite), 77536-67-5 (anthophyllite)

Class: **Carcinogen**

Molecular Formula: H2Mg3O12Si4 (talc); contains more than 1% of one of the following asbestos types: [Ca](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calcium)2Mg5Si8O22(OH)2 (tremolite), [Ca](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calcium)2([Mg](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnesium" \o "Magnesium),[Fe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iron))5[Si](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Silicon)8[O](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxygen)22(O[H](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hydrogen))2 (actinolite), (Mg, Fe)7Si8O22(OH)2 (anthophyllite)

Form (physical state): Solid

Color: Grey

Boiling point: N/A

**Potential Hazards/Toxicity**

Talc (containing asbestos fibers) may irritate the respiratory tract. Prolonged exposure can cause damage to lungs leading to asbestosis and lung cancer. Asbestosis can develop years after exposure. Symptoms include coughing, shortness of breath, and chest pain which can lead to disability and death. Asbestos splinters may penetrate skin and cause asbestos corns. Can cause irritation to eyes. Ingestion can cause gastrointestinal cancer. Talc has a permissible exposure limit (PEL) of 2 mg/m3 and asbestos has a PEL of 0.1 fiber/cc.

**Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

**Respirator Protection**

Use a full-face particle respirator with type N100 (US) respirator cartridges.

Respirators should be used only under any of the following circumstances:

* As a last line of defense (i.e., after engineering and administrative controls have been exhausted).
* When Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) has exceeded or when there is a possibility that PEL will be exceeded.
* Regulations require the use of a respirator.
* An employer requires the use of a respirator.
* There is potential for harmful exposure due to an atmospheric contaminant (in the absence of PEL).
* As PPE in the event of a chemical spill clean-up process.

Lab personnel intending to use/wear a respirator mask must be trained and fit-tested by ORS and should contact occhealt@uga.edu. This is a UGA requirement described in more detail in the [UGA Respiratory Protection Plan](https://esd.uga.edu/sites/default/files/respiratoryprotection.pdf) and supported by the [Office of Research Occupational Health and Safety Program](https://research.uga.edu/ohsp/).

**Hand Protection**

Handle with gloves. Nitrile gloves are recommended.

NOTE: Consult with your preferred glove manufacturer to ensure that the gloves you plan on using are compatible with talc (containing asbestos fibers).

Refer to glove selection chart from the links below:

<http://www.ansellpro.com/download/Ansell_8thEditionChemicalResistanceGuide.pdf>

OR

<http://www.allsafetyproducts.biz/page/74172>

OR

<http://www.showabestglove.com/site/default.aspx>

OR

<http://www.mapaglove.com/>

**Eye Protection**

ANSI-approved, tight-fitting glasses/goggles.

**Skin and Body Protection**

Appropriately fitting lab coat, long pants, closed-toe shoes.

**Hygiene Measures**

Avoid contact with skin, eyes, and clothing. Wash hands before breaks and after handling.

**Engineering Controls**

Chemical fume hood. Adequate exhaust and capture filtration.

**First Aid Procedures**

**If inhaled**

Move person into fresh air. If not breathing, give artificial respiration. If breathing is difficult, give oxygen. Consult a physician.

**In case of skin contact**

Wash off with soap and plenty of water for at least 15 minutes removing contaminated clothing. Remove asbestos splinters promptly. Consult a physician.

**In case of eye contact**

Flush eyes with plenty of water for at least 15 minutes lifting upper and lower eyelids and removing contact lenses. Consult a physician.

**If swallowed**

Never give anything by mouth to an unconscious person. Rinse mouth with water. Consult a physician.

**Special Handling and Storage Requirements**

**Precautions for safe handling:** Avoid contact with skin, eyes, and clothing. Avoid inhalation and ingestion. Avoid dust formation. Provide adequate exhaust ventilation.

**Conditions for safe storage:** Keep container tightly closed in a dry and well-ventilated area. Protect from damage.

**Spill and Accident Procedure**

**Chemical Spill Dial 911**

**24-7 On-Call Response to Research, Environment, Health or Safety Concerns Dial 2-5561 from a campus phone or 706-542-5561 from a non-campus line.**

**Spill** – Follow the procedures set out in the [UGA Chemical and Laboratory Safety Manual.](http://research.uga.edu/docs/units/safety/manuals/Chemical-Laboratory-Safety-Manual.pdf)

[If there are any chemical-specific protocols for responding to a spill, insert them here or mark “none”:]

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# **Medical Emergency Dial 911**

**Life Threatening Emergency, After Hours, Weekends and Holidays** – Dial **911** or the emergency phone numbers listed at the beginning of the UGA Chemical and Laboratory Safety Manual.

*Note: All incidents that result in an injury or property damage must be reported to ORS / ESD using a University Incident/Accident Report.*

**Non-Life-Threatening Emergency** – Follow the instructions in the UGA Chemical and Laboratory Safety Manual.

*Note: All incidents that result in an injury or property damage must be reported to ORS / ESD using a University Incident/Accident Report.*

**Decontamination/Waste Disposal Procedure**

**For general hazardous waste disposal procedures, see Appendix H of the UGA Chemical and Laboratory Safety Manual.**

**Chemical Specific Procedures: [to be inserted or marked as “none”]**

Wearing proper PPE, decontaminate equipment and bench tops using a HEPA-filter vacuum and soap and water. Avoid dry sweeping and dust formation. Dispose of the used chemical and contaminated disposables as hazardous waste.

**Safety Data Sheet (SDS) Location**

UGA personnel can access Online SDS through a link in the upper left corner of the ESD home page (<https://esd.uga.edu>) and logging in by using their UGA email user name and password.

**Protocol/Procedure (Add lab specific Protocol/Procedure here)**

Click here to enter text.

**NOTE**

Any deviation from this SOP requires approval from PI.

**Documentation of Training** (signature of all users is required)

* Prior to conducting any work with talc (containing asbestos fibers), designated personnel must provide training to his/her laboratory personnel specific to the hazards involved in working with this substance, work area decontamination, and emergency procedures.
* The Principal Investigator must provide his/her laboratory personnel with a copy of this SOP and access to the SDS provided by the manufacturer.
* The Principal Investigator must ensure that his/her laboratory personnel have attended appropriate laboratory safety training or refresher training within the last 12 months.

**Principal Investigator SOP Approval**

Print name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Approval Date:

I have read and understand the content of this SOP:

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