

# Safety Data Sheet – Borax Decahydrate

## SECTION 1. Identification

### 1.1. Product identifier

Disodium tetraborate, decahydrate

**Index No** 005-011-01-1

**CAS** 1303-96-4

**ECN** 215-540-4

**REACH Registration number:** 01-2119490790-32-0002

**Trade names:** Borax Decahydrate

**Chemical name/synonyms:** Sodium tetraborate decahydrate, disodium tetraborate, borax

### 1.2. Details of the supplier of the safety data sheet

#### Supplier

**Name:** American Borate Company

**Address:** 5701 Cleveland Street, Suite 350, Virginia Beach, VA 23462

**Phone No:** (757) 490-2242 or (800)-486-1072

### 1.3. Emergency Phone Numbers:

Monday through Friday 8am – 5pm EST: (757) 490-2242 or (800) 486-1072

After 5pm and weekends: CHEMTREC 1-800-424-9300

### 1.4. Relevant identified uses of the substance and uses advised against

The product is used in industrial manufacturing, in particular in:

Ceramics

Detergent

Borosilicate glass

Insulation fiberglass

## SECTION 2. Hazard Identification

### 2.1. Classification of the substance

#### GHS Classification in accordance with 29 CFR 1910 (OSHA HCS)

Reproductive toxicity (Category 2) H361 Suspected of damaging fertility or the unborn child

Eye irritant (Category 2) H319 Causes serious eye irritation.

Acute Oral (Category 5) H303 May be harmful if swallowed.

### 2.2 GHS Label elements, including precautionary statements

**Pictogram**

**Signal word**

Warning



## **Hazard statements**

H361 Suspected of damaging fertility or the unborn child

H319 Causes serious eye irritation.

H303 May be harmful if swallowed.

## **Precautionary statements**

P201 Obtain special instructions before use.

P202 Do not handle until all safety precautions have been read and understood.

P264 Wash thoroughly after handling

P280 Wear protective gloves/protective clothing/eye protection/face protection

P281 Use personal protective equipment as required.

P305+P351+P338 If in eyes: Rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses, if present and easy to do. Continue rinsing

P308 + P313 If exposed or concerned: Get medical advice/ attention.

P405 Store locked up.

P501 Dispose of contents/ container to an approved waste disposal plant.

### **2.1.3. Additional information**

For Full text of R-S phrases as well as Hazard Class/Statements and Precautionary Statements see section 16.

## **2.2. Other hazards**

### **Emergency overview**

Borax decahydrate is a white odorless, powdered substance that is not flammable, combustible, or explosive, and has low acute oral and dermal toxicity.

### **Potential health effects**

Inhalation is the most significant route of exposure in occupational and other settings. Dermal exposure is not usually a concern because borax decahydrate is poorly absorbed through intact skin.

### **Inhalation**

Occasional mild irritation effects to nose and throat may occur from inhalation of borax decahydrate dusts at levels higher than 10 mg/m<sup>3</sup>.

### **Eye contact**

Borax decahydrate is a serious eye irritant.

### **Skin contact**

Borax decahydrate does not cause irritation to intact skin.

### **Ingestion**

Products containing borax decahydrate are not intended for ingestion. Borax decahydrate has low acute toxicity. Small amounts (e.g. a teaspoonful) swallowed accidentally are not likely to cause effects; swallowing amounts larger than that may cause gastrointestinal symptoms.

### **Reproductive/Developmental**

Animal ingestion studies in several species, at high doses, indicate that borates cause reproductive and developmental effects. A human study of occupational exposure to borate dust showed no adverse effect on reproduction. . A recent epidemiological study and a peer reviewing report of the past epidemiological studies conducted in China didn't show any negative effect of boron on human fertility (10, 11).

### **Potential ecological effects**

Large amounts of borax decahydrate can be harmful to plants and other species. Therefore releases to the environment should be minimized.

### **Signs and symptoms of exposure**

Symptoms of accidental over-exposure to borax decahydrate have been associated with ingestion or absorption through large areas of damaged skin. These may include nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea, with delayed effects of skin redness and peeling (see section 11).

## SECTION 3. Composition/ Information on Ingredients

### 3.1. Substances:

The product contains greater than 99.9 percent (%) borax decahydrate  $\text{Na}_2\text{B}_4\text{O}_7 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Chemical Name	Purity	CAS	ECN	REACH Registration No.	Hazard Statements
Borax decahydrate	99.9%	1303-96-4	215-540-4	01-2119490790-32-0002	H361 / H319 / H303

For other Chemical inventory listings, please refer to section 15.

## SECTION 4. First-aid Measures

### 4.1. Description of first aid measures

#### General advice

Move out of dangerous area. Seek medical attention. Show this safety data sheet to the doctor in attendance.

#### Skin contact

Wash with soap and water. Seek medical attention.

#### Eye contact

As with any chemical exposure to the eye, flush eyes with water for at least 20-minutes. Seek medical attention.

#### Inhalation

If symptoms such as nose or throat irritation are observed, remove person to fresh air. If not breathing, give artificial respiration. Seek medical attention.

#### Ingestion

If large amounts are swallowed (i.e. more than one teaspoon), give two glasses of water or milk to drink and seek medical attention. Never give anything by mouth to an unconscious person.

#### Note to physicians

Observation only is required for adult ingestion of less than 7 grams of borax decahydrate. For ingestion in excess of 7 grams, maintain adequate kidney function and force fluids. Gastric lavage is recommended for symptomatic patients only. Hemodialysis should be reserved for massive acute ingestion or patients with renal failure. Boron analyses of urine or blood are only useful for documenting exposure and should not be used to evaluate severity of poisoning or to guide treatment [1] (see section 11).

### 4.2. Most important symptoms and effects, both acute and delayed

Described in labelling.

### 4.3. Indication of any immediate medical attention and special treatment needed

No data available.

## SECTION 5. Fire-fighting Measures Identification

### 5.1. Suitable Extinguishing media

Use fire extinguishing media suitable for surrounding fires.

### 5.2. Specific hazards arising from the chemical

None – Borax is non-flammable, combustible or explosive. The product is itself a flame retardant.

### 5.3. Special protective actions for fire-fighters

Firefighters should wear pressure demand, self-contained breathing apparatus and full turn-out gear.

## SECTION 6. Accidental Release Measures

### 6.1. Personal precautions, protective equipment and emergency procedures

Avoid dust formation. In case of exposure to prolonged or high level of airborne dust, wear a personal respirator in compliance with national legislation.

### 6.2. Environmental precautions

Borax decahydrate is a water-soluble white powder that may, at high concentrations cause damage to trees or vegetation by root absorption (see section 12).

### 6.3. Methods and materials for containment and cleaning up

#### Land spill

Vacuum, shovel or sweep up borax and place in containers for disposal in accordance with applicable local regulations. Avoid contamination of water bodies during clean up and disposal. No personal protective equipment is needed to clean up land spills.

#### Spillage into water

Where possible, remove any intact containers from the water. Advise local water authority that none of the affected water should be used for irrigation or for the abstraction of potable water until natural dilution returns the boron value to its normal environmental background level (see sections 12, 13 and 15).

### 6.4. Reference to other sections

See sections 8 and 13 for further information.

## SECTION 7. Handling and Storage

### 7.1. Precautions for safe Handling

To maintain package integrity and to minimize caking of the product, bags should be handled on a first-in first out basis. Good housekeeping and dust prevention procedures should be followed to minimize dust generation and accumulation. Your supplier can advise you on safe handling, please contact the supplier. The product should be kept away from strong reducing agents. Apply above handling advice when mixing with other substances.

### 7.2. Conditions for safe storage

Keep containers closed and store indoors in a dry well ventilated location. Provide appropriate ventilation and store bags such as to prevent any accidental damage.

## SECTION 8. Exposure Controls/Personal Protection

### 8.1. Control parameters

*Occupational exposure limits for dust (total and respirable) are treated by OSHA, Cal OSHA and ACGIH as "Particulate Not Otherwise Classified" or "Nuisance Dust"*

Respect regulatory provisions for dust (total and respirable).

ACGIH/TLV	10 mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Cal OSHA/PEL	10 mg/m <sup>3</sup>
OSHA/PEL (total dust)	15 mg/m <sup>3</sup>
OSHA/PEL (respirable dust)	5 mg/m <sup>3</sup>

## DNEL values

Exposure pattern	Type/site of effect	Exposure route	DNEL value
<b>DNELs for workers</b>			
Acute	Local	Inhalation	22.3 mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Long-term	Systemic	Inhalation	12.8 mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Long-term	Systemic	Dermal	42478 mg/day
<b>DNELs for the general public</b>			
Acute	Systemic	Oral	1.5 mg/kg bw/day
Acute	Local	Inhalation	22.3 mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Long-term	Systemic	Dermal (external)	303.5 mg/kg bw/day
Long-term	Systemic	Dermal (systemic)	1.5 mg/kg bw/day
Long-term	Systemic	Inhalation	6.5 mg/m <sup>3</sup>
Long-term	Systemic	Oral	1.5 mg/kg bw/day
Long-term	Local	Inhalation	22.3 mg/m <sup>3</sup>

Source: Chemical Safety Report of disodium tetraborate

## PNEC values

**PNEC** add, freshwater, marine water = 1.35 mg B/L

**PNEC** add aqua intermittent = 9.1 mg B/L

**PNEC** add freshwater sediment, marine water sediment = 1.8 mg B/kg sediment dry weight

**PNEC soil** = 5.4 mg B/kg soil dry weight

**PNEC** add, STP = 1.75 mg B/L

Source: Chemical Safety Report of Boric Acid

## **8.2. Exposure controls**

### **8.2.1. Appropriate engineering controls**

Maintain air concentrations below occupational exposure standards.

Use local exhaust ventilation to keep airborne concentrations of borax decahydrate dust below permissible exposure levels. Wash hands before breaks and at the end of the workday. Remove and wash soiled clothing.

### **8.2.2. Individual protection measures, such as personal protective equipment**

#### *Respiratory protection*

Where risk assessment shows air-purifying respirators are appropriate use a full-face particle respirator type N100 (US) or type P3 (EN 143) respirator cartridges as a backup to engineering controls. If the respirator is the sole means of protection, use a full-face supplied air respirator. Use respirators and components tested and approved under appropriate government standards such as NIOSH (US) or CEN (EU).

#### *Eyes and hand protection*

Handle with gloves. Wear eye protection suitable for job tasks.

### **8.2.3. Environmental exposure controls**

No special requirement.

## SECTION 9. Physical and Chemical Properties

### **9.1. Information on basic physical and chemical properties**

Physical state	powder or crystalline solid
Color	white
Odor	odorless
Odor threshold	no data available
Molecular weight	381.37
Specific gravity	1.71-1.73 gr/cm <sup>3</sup> @ 20°C

pH @ 20°C	9.3 (0.1% solution) 9.2 (1% solution) 9.3 (4.7% solution)
Melting point	741°C (heated in closed space)
Initial boiling point and boiling range	1575°C
Flash point	not applicable
Evaporation rate	not applicable
Flammability (solid, gas)	not flammable
Upper/lower flammability or explosive limits	not applicable
Vapor pressure	negligible @ 20°C
Vapor density	not applicable
Relative density	1.72 @ 20° C
Solubility in water	4.7 % @ 20°C; 65.6% @ 100°C
Partition Coefficient: n-octanol/water	Log Kow (Pow): 1.53 +/- 0.05 (@ 22 + / - 1°C) pH 7.5
Auto-Ignition temperature	not applicable
Decomposition temperature	dehydration begins at 60 °C, complete at 320 °C
Viscosity	not applicable
Explosion hazard	not applicable
Oxidizing properties	not applicable
Bulk density:	62.43 lbs/ft <sup>3</sup> (1.0 ton/m <sup>3</sup> )

## SECTION 10. Stability and Reactivity

### 10.1. Reactivity

No data available

### 10.2. Chemical stability

Borax decahydrate is stable under normal ambient and anticipated storage and handling conditions of temperature and pressure. When heated it loses water, eventually forming anhydrous borax (Na<sub>2</sub>B<sub>4</sub>O<sub>7</sub>).

### 10.3. Possibility of hazardous reactions

Reaction with strong reducing agents such as metal hydrides, acetic anhydride or alkali metals will generate flammable hydrogen gas which could create an explosive hazard.

### 10.4. Conditions to avoid

Exposure to moisture and incompatible materials.

### 10.5. Incompatible materials

Avoid contact with strong reducing agents such as metal hydrides, acetic anhydride or alkali metals.

### 10.6. Hazardous decomposition products

Boranes, hydrogen, boron oxides.

## SECTION 11. Toxicological Information

### 11.1. Information on toxicological effect

#### Acute toxicity

Low acute oral toxicity; LD<sub>50</sub> in rats is 6,000 mg/kg of body weight.

#### Skin corrosion / irritation

Low acute dermal toxicity; LD<sub>50</sub> in rabbits is greater than 2,000 mg/kg of body weight. Borax decahydrate is poorly absorbed through intact skin. Non-irritant.

#### Serious eye damage/ irritation

Borax decahydrate is a serious eye irritant.

**Respiratory or skin sensitization:**

Borax is not a skin sensitizer.

**Germ cell mutagenicity / carcinogenicity**

IARC: No component of this product present at levels greater than or equal to 0.1% is identified as probable, possible or confirmed human carcinogen by IARC.

ACGIH: No component of this product present at levels greater than or equal to 0.1% is identified as a carcinogen or potential carcinogen by ACGIH.

NTP: No component of this product present at levels greater than or equal to 0.1% is identified as a known or anticipated carcinogen by NTP.

OSHA: No component of this product present at levels greater than or equal to 0.1% is identified as a carcinogen or potential carcinogen by OSHA.

**Reproductive toxicity**

Animal feeding studies in rat, mouse and dog, at high doses, have demonstrated effects on fertility and testes (2). Studies with chemically related boric acid in rat, mouse and rabbit, at high doses, demonstrate developmental effects on the fetus including fetal weight loss and minor skeletal variations. The doses administered were many times in excess of those which humans would normally be exposed to (3, 4, 5). Human epidemiological studies show no increase in pulmonary disease in occupational populations with chronic exposures to boric acid dust and sodium borate dust. A recent epidemiology study under the conditions of normal occupational exposure to borate dusts indicated no effect on fertility.

**STOT-single exposure** N.A.

**STOT-repeated exposure** N.A.

**Aspiration hazard**

Low acute inhalation toxicity; LC<sub>50</sub> in rats is greater than 2.0 mg/l (or g/m<sup>3</sup>).

## SECTION 12. Ecological Information

Boron occurs naturally in sea water at an average concentration of 5 mg B/l and fresh water at 1 mg B/l or less. In dilute aqueous solutions the predominant boron species present is undissociated boric acid.

**12.1. Toxicity****Phytotoxicity**

Boron is an essential micronutrient for healthy growth of plants; however, it can be harmful to boron sensitive plants in higher quantities. Care should be taken to minimise the amount of borate product released to the environment.

**Algal toxicity (6)**

Green algae, *Pseudokirchneriella subcapitata* (Hansveit and Oldersma, 2000)

72-hr EC<sub>50</sub> –biomass = 40 mg B/L, or 229 mg boric acid/L.

**Invertebrate toxicity (7)**

Daphnia, Daphnids, *Daphnia magna* (Gersich, 1984a)

48-hr LC<sub>50</sub> = 133 mg B/L or 760 mg boric acid/L or 619 mg disodium tetraborate, anhydrous/L

**Fish toxicity (8)**

Fish, Fathead minnow, *Pimephales promelas* (Soucek et al., 2010)

96-hr LC<sub>50</sub> = 79.7 mg B/L or 456 mg boric acid/L or 370 mg disodium tetraborate, anhydrous

**12.2. Persistence and degradability**

Boron is naturally occurring and ubiquitous in the environment. Borax is a naturally occurring borate.

**12.3. Bio-accumulative potential**

Not significantly bio-accumulative.

#### 12.4. Mobility in soil

The product is soluble in water and is leachable through normal soil.

#### 12.5. Results of PBT and vPvB assessment

No data available

#### 12.6. Other adverse effects

No data available

## SECTION 13. Disposal Considerations

### 13.1. Disposal methods

Dispose of in accordance with all local, state, and federal regulations. Contact a licensed waste disposal service to dispose of this material. Surplus product should, if possible, be used for an appropriate application.

## SECTION 14. Transport Information

Borax decahydrate has no UN Number, and is not regulated under international rail, road, water or air transport regulations.

#### US DOT

Not dangerous goods

#### IMDG

Not dangerous goods

#### IATA

Not dangerous goods

## SECTION 15. Regulatory Information

### 15.1. Safety, health and environmental regulations/substance specific legislation

It should be noted that borates are safe under conditions of normal handling and use, besides, they are essential nutrients to plants, and research shows that they play a beneficial role in human health.

#### Chemical inventory listing

U.S. EPA TSCA Inventory 1330-96-4

Canadian DSL 1330-96-4

ECN 215-540-4

South Korea 9212-848

Japanese MITI (1)-69

Ensure all national/local regulations are observed.

**SARA 302** No chemicals in this material are subject to the reporting requirements of SARA Title III, Section 302.

**SARA 313** This material does not contain any chemical components with known CAS numbers that exceed the threshold (De Minimis) reporting levels established by SARA Title III, Section 313.

**SARA 311/312 Hazards** Chronic Health Hazard

#### Massachusetts Right to Know Components

Disodium tetraborate decahydrate CAS-No 1303-96-4 Revision Date 2007-03-01

#### Pennsylvania Right to Know Components

Disodium tetraborate decahydrate CAS-No 1303-96-4 Revision Date 2007-03-01



## New Jersey Right To Know Components

Disodium tetraborate decahydrate CAS-No 1303-96-4 Revision Date 2007-03-01

## California Prop. 65 Components

This product does not contain any chemicals known to State of California to cause cancer, birth defects, or any other reproductive harm.

## Clean Air Act (Montreal Protocol)

Borax decahydrate was not manufactured with and does not contain any Class I or Class II ozone depleting substances.

## EU Reach Regulation

Disodium tetraborates are listed in the Candidate List of Substances of Very High Concern "SVHC" for eventual inclusion in Annex XIV to REACH Regulation 1907/2006 ("Authorization List") (18.06.2010-ED/30/2010).

Disodium tetraborates are listed in the Annex XVII of REACH Regulation 1907/2006 (EU No.109/2012) and its use in consumer products above specific concentration limits is restricted. Note that this restriction is only specific to consumer products and do not cover its industrial and/or professional applications. Disodium Tetraborates can be used in consumer products below specific concentration limits (which is C ≥8.5% for Borax decahydrate).

## SECTION 16. Other Information

### Full text of H-Statements referred to under sections 2 and 3.

**H361** Suspected of damaging fertility or the unborn child

**H319** Causes serious eye irritation.

**H303** May be harmful if swallowed.

### References

1. Litovitz T L, Norman S A, Veltri J C, Annual Report of the American Association of Poison Control Centers Data Collection System. Am. J. Emerg. Med. (1986), 4, 427-458
2. Weir R J, Fisher R S, Toxicol. Appl. Pharmacol., (1972), 23, 351-364
3. National Toxicology Program (NTP) – Technical Report Series No. TR324, NIH Publication No. 88-2580 (1987), PB88 213475/XAB
4. Fail *et al.*, Fund. Appl. Toxicol. (1991) 17, 225-239
5. Heindel *et al.*, Fund. Appl. Toxicol. (1992) 18, 266-277
6. Hansveit and Oldersma, 2000; TNO Nutrition and Food Research Institute. Report No. V99.157.
7. Gersich, FM (1984a). Environ.Toxicol.Chem., 3 #1, 89-94 (1984)
8. Soucek *et al.*, 2010. Illinois Natural History Survey, University of Illinois.
9. Birge W J, Black J A, EPA-560/-76-008 (April 1977) PB 267 085
10. Scialli AR, Bonde JP, Brüske-Hohlfeld I, Culver D, Li Y, Sullivan FM; ELSEVIER 2009
11. Robbins WA, Xun L, Jia J, Kennedy N, Elashoff DA, Ping L. ;ELSEVIER 2009;(Reproductive Toxicology)

For general information on the toxicology of borates see ECETOC Technical Report No. 63 (1995); Patty's Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology, 4th Edition Vol. II, (1994) Chap. 42, Boron.

### Disclaimer of Liability

The information in this SDS was obtained from sources which we believe are reliable. However, the information is provided without any warranty, express or implied, regarding its accuracy, reliability or completeness. The conditions or methods of handling, storage use or disposal of the product are beyond our control and may be beyond our knowledge. For this and other reasons, we do not assume responsibility and expressly disclaim liability for loss, damage or expense arising out of or in any way connected with the handling, storage, use or disposal of the product. It is the user's responsibility to satisfy themselves as to the suitability and completeness of such information for their own particular use. This SDS was prepared and is to be used only for this product. If the product is used as a component in another product, this SDS information may not be applicable. Please note that the provision of this SDS being not mandatory, only an English version of this latter is available.

**Date of issue 8-2007**  
**Date of Last Revision 6-2014**