



## MATERIAL SAFETY DATA SHEET

Date of Issue: 8/05

### 1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE SUBSTANCE / PREPARATION / AND OF THE COMPANY UNDERTAKING

Trade Name: **POSTSAVER**

Chemical Description: Polyethylene film lined with bitumen and detergent

Product Type and Main Use: Postsaver boot or sleeve for in ground timber protection

Manufacturer: Postsaver Limited  
P.O. Box 179  
Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland TS21 1YN  
United Kingdom

Emergency Contact Information: Postsaver USA  
240 North Lincoln Ave.  
Lebanon, PA 17046  
888-289-2210

### 2. COMPOSITION/INFORMATION ON INGREDIENTS

Substance name	CAS no	EC Number	%	Classification
LDPE/LLDPE Polyethylene Film	9002-88-4		50	
Oxidised Bitumen	64742-93-4	265-196-4	50	
40% Detergent. Non-ionic surfactant			trace	

In North America and Poland the word asphalt is used to refer to bitumen

### 3. HAZARDS IDENTIFICATION

Postsaver Boots, or Postsaver Sleeves, (henceforth known as Postsaver or the product), being almost entirely made of polyethylene film and oxidized bitumen are not deemed to be hazardous, (bitumen under Directive 67/548/EEC and its amendments).

Postsaver is not classified as flammable, but does consist of hydrocarbons and can form flammable mixtures and can burn if heated to temperatures of or above 300°C, (570°F).

In the heated state the product can give off fumes. Although these fumes are not thought to produce a significant health hazard, exposure to these fumes should be kept to a minimum by observing good work practise and ensuring good ventilation around work areas.

Postsaver can accumulate static electrical charges. The rapid leaking of such charges to earth in the form of sparks is potentially dangerous in areas where flame or explosion hazards exist.

The inside of the product is coated in Detergent. This 40% Detergent has Low Toxicity, but in common with all detergent systems prolonged contact will lead to defatting of the skin and eventually could cause dermatitis especially on sensitive skins.

#### 4. FIRST AID MEASURES

##### **INHALATION**

Due to the very low level of fumes there is a negligible hazard at ambient temperatures, up to 38°C, (100°F). At elevated temperatures where the product is being subjected to heat as a means of shrinking, vapours may be released that are irritating to the eyes and respiratory tract, causing coughing. In such an event, victims should be removed to fresh air. If irritation persists, get medical attention. Adequate general and local ventilation is essential to minimise the concentration of any fumes in the vicinity of processing machinery.

##### **EYE CONTACT**

Postsaver may give rise to some irritation on contact with the eyes but should not injure eye tissue. Flushing with water is the immediate treatment for such irritation which if persistent should be referred to a doctor. In the event of coming into contact with hot material from inside the product, immediately flush eyes with running water for at least 5 minutes, keeping eyelids open. In the event of any product remaining, do not try to remove it other than by continued irrigation with water. Obtain medical attention immediately.

##### **SKIN CONTACT**

There is no hazard from Postsaver in normal industrial use but there have been occasional reports of dermatitis symptoms in persons handling plastic films. Such problems can be eliminated by the use of barrier creams or protective gloves.

Molten material on the skin can cause burns, the affected area should be washed with large amounts of cold water, for at least 10 minutes to dissipate the heat but should not be pulled off and experienced medical attention sought.

Solidified bitumen should not be removed from the skin as it provides an airtight sterile covering over the burn. It will eventually fall off with the scab when the burn heals. All burns should receive medical attention.

Treatment for bitumen burns should in general be symptomatic and directed to relieving any effects. If for any reason the product must be removed, this can be done using slightly warmed medicinal liquid paraffin.

Contamination with detergent should be washed off with fresh water.

##### **INGESTION**

Postsaver material is biologically inactive and does not normally cause a hazard when ingested. First aid is not normally required. Obtain medical attention if symptoms occur.

Hot Material: Not likely due to high temperature.

#### 5. FIRE FIGHTING MEASURES

##### **Extinguishing Media Suitable**

The type of fire extinguisher to be used on burning product depends very much on its environment, for instance do not use water sprays near electrical installations. That said water spray (fog), carbon dioxide, dry chemical; foam can be used safely on burning product. Do not use water jets on pools of molten bitumen.

##### **Special Fire Precautions**

Burning Postsaver product should not be approached without the use of proper equipment, i.e. gloves, shoes, positive pressure self contained breathing apparatus and helmet with face shield.

##### **Hazardous Combustion Products**

The main combustion products under normal burning conditions are carbon dioxide, water, hydrogen sulphide and sulphur oxides. If insufficient oxygen is present carbon monoxide, acrolin and other toxic aldehydes may be present with thick dense smoke.

## 6. ACCIDENTAL RELEASE MEASURES

Spilled Postsaver boots/sleeves presents a potential slip or trip hazard and should be cleaned up immediately. The discarded material should be disposed of according to local disposal regulations.

## 7. HANDLING AND STORAGE

### Storage

Postsaver should be stored in dry conditions below 26°C, (80°F).

Do not expose to naked flame.

Do not store in Direct Sunlight.

### Handling

The polyethylene exterior of the product does not present a handling problem. Wear plastic or rubber gloves to avoid prolonged exposure to the internal detergent coating.

## 8. EXPOSURE CONTROLS AND PERSONAL PROTECTION

### Engineering Controls

Good general ventilation of workshops is essential to minimise the concentration of fumes.

### Skin Protection/Hygiene Measures

Postsaver should not normally cause skin irritation. Plastic or rubber gloves are recommended for prolonged contact with the detergent.

Hands should be washed after handling boots and before eating, using lavatory and at the end of the day.

## 9. PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL PROPERTIES

### Physical State at Ambient Temperature

Solid.

### Colour

Black.

### Odour

Polyethylene and detergent odourless. Bitumen characteristic.

### Melting Point

Polyethylene 90-130°C, (190-266°F).

### Flash Point

Greater than 220°C, (428°F), for bitumen and greater than 340°C, (644°F), for polyethylene film.

### Auto Ignition Temperature

Greater than 300°C, (572°F), for bitumen and greater than 400°C, (752°F), for polyethylene film.

### Solubility

Postsaver is insoluble in water. The inner coating of detergent is fully water-soluble.

### Solubility in Organic Solvents

In general the outer polyethylene layer is insoluble in organic solvents. Prolonged immersion in aromatic hydrocarbons and/or n-paraffin's can cause swelling at room temperatures and dissolving at higher temperatures. The inner bitumen layer is partially soluble in fat and soluble in most organic solvents.

## 10. STABILITY AND REACTIVITY

### Chemical and Thermal Stability

Postsaver boots are stable under normal handling and storage conditions. If stored continuously in direct sunlight or excessive temperatures, above the recommended storage and handling temperatures, the boots will start to shrink, the bitumen lining will crack and will give off flammable vapours.

### Hazardous Decomposition Products

Burning product will give off a complex mixture of gases including carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, sulphur oxides and thick dense smoke.

## 11. TOXICOLOGICAL INFORMATION

### Ingestion

The toxicity from ingestion of this product is minimal, however some breathing difficulties or choking may occur if swallowed.

### Eye Contact

Particulates of the product may cause mechanical irritation to the eyes.

### Skin Contact

Postsaver film will not be absorbed by the skin and is essentially non-irritating. If irritation occurs use barrier creams or gloves.

### Inhalation

Postsaver will create no vapours below 26°C. At elevated temperatures some irritating vapours may be given off.

## 12. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Postsaver is insoluble in water and is non-biodegradable and will remain unaffected for years in a landfill site. The internal trace coating of detergent is completely biodegradable. And as such has no long-term detrimental effect on the environment.

## 13. DISPOSAL CONSIDERATIONS

Disposal in accordance with local and national regulations.

## 14. TRANSPORT INFORMATION

Neither the polyethylene nor the bitumen in the product is classified as hazardous for transport, (ADR, RID, UN, ICAO/IATA).

## 15. REGULATORY INFORMATION

Postsaver does not require labelling and classification according to EEC Directives.

**16. OTHER INFORMATION**

References: Concawe product dossier 92/104-Bitumen and bitumen derivatives  
Concawe report 01/54, Environmental classification of petroleum substances-summary data and rationale  
Concawe report 01/53, Classification and labelling of petroleum substances according to the EU dangerous substances directive  
Institute of Petroleum-Bitumen safety Code  
CEN/TC 19/SC-Bitumen and bituminous binders, terminology  
Eurobitume, Guidelines in the classification of bitumens and bituminous preparations  
Eurobitume, Report 96/002, revised Feb 2000 (MSDS paving grade bitumen)  
Eurobitume, Bitumen burns card-Notes for physician  
Concawe report 5/02, Amended safety data sheet directive (2002/58/EC)

This data sheet is prepared according to the latest adaptation of the EEC Guideline 67/548.  
This data sheet is prepared according to the OSHA Hazard Communication Standard (29 CFR 1910.1200).  
This data sheet is prepared according to the ANSI MSDS Standard (Z400.1).

The above information is based on the data of which we are aware and is believed to be correct as the date hereof. Since this information may be applied under conditions beyond our control and with which we are unfamiliar and since data made available subsequent to the date hereof may suggest modifications of the information, we do not assume any responsibility for the results of its use. This information is furnished upon condition that the person receiving it shall make his own determination of the suitability of the material for his particular use.