

# NITRIC ACID

## OTHER NAMES

aqua fortis  
spirit of niter

## USES

fertilizers, precursor to organic nitrogen compounds, nylon production, explosives, rocket propellant, woodworking, cleaning, etching, analytical reagent

## HAZARDS



**Corrosive to metal and skin:** can cause severe skin burns and eye damage.

**Oxidizing liquid:** may intensify fires. Reacts with incompatibles to produce gas and heat, which can overpressure and burst storage containers.



**Incompatibles are:** flammables, bases, hydrogen sulfide, organic materials, metals, and metal compounds.

## REDUCE RISKS



Before beginning work—familiarize yourself with the dangers and precautions needed when handling nitric acid.



All work should be performed in a fume hood (clear away all organics, flammables, and other incompatibles).



Never work alone.



Wear goggles, gloves, lab coat, and fully enclosed shoes.



Choose gloves appropriate to the hazard using...  $C_3D_2$ 

<b>C</b> hemicals	<b>D</b> uration
<b>C</b> oncentration	<b>D</b> exterity
<b>C</b> ontact Type	



Store nitric acid properly: do not store with incompatibles. Ensure the bottle is within secondary containment. Keep a fully stocked acid spill kit in the laboratory in case of spills.



Dispose of nitric acid properly: do not place into a bottle containing any flammables, bases, hydrogen sulfide, organic materials, metals, or metal compounds. Ensure that the waste bottle has been completely cleaned/rinsed before using if it previously contained these materials. Use a pressure relief cap on the bottle to reduce risk of an overpressure event.

## IN CASE OF EXPOSURE

(For all exposures, seek immediate medical attention)



**If on skin:** wash with plenty of soap and water and seek medical advice.



**If in eyes:** rinse cautiously with water for several minutes. Remove contact lenses if present and easy to do so. Continue rinsing and seek medical attention.

Reviewed 2017