



INTERPOL

EXPLOSIVE PRECURSOR CHEMICALS

The following 24 chemicals are explosive precursors. This list is not extensive, however those that appear below are regulated and subject to controls by one or more of the national governments and agencies in Canada, USA, EU, UK, Australia and Singapore and raise flags to the international effort to counter the illicit diversion and trafficking of precursor chemicals used by terrorists and other criminal organizations to manufacture explosive devices.

Many of these chemicals have conventional and legitimate industrial and or agricultural uses, but can and have been used in manufacturing Home Made Explosives (HME) for Improvised Explosive Devices (IED)

The descriptions relate to the chemical in its purest form. If mixed with other chemicals it could have a different colour or texture.

An odour description is included to provide early indication warning only.

Explosive Precursor Chemicals

Name	Description	Odour
Acetic Anhydride	Colourless Liquid	Vinegar
Acetone	Colourless Liquid	Fruit/Nail Varnish Remover
Aluminium Powder	Silver/Grey Powder	Odourless
Ammonium Nitrate	Colourless	Ammonia
Ammonium Perchlorate	Grainy White Powder	Odourless
Barium Nitrate	White Crystals	(Not Documented) Highly Toxic
Calcium Ammonium Nitrate	Colourless Liquid	Ammonia
Guanidine Nitrate	Colourless Crystals	Odourless
Hexamine	Waxy Solid	Mild Ammonia
Hydrogen Peroxide	Colourless Liquid	Odourless
Nitric Acid	Colourless, Yellow or Red Crystals	Acrid
Nitromethane	Colourless Oily Liquid	Sweet/Fruit
Perchloric Acid	Colourless Liquid	Odourless
Potassium Chlorate	White Crystals	Odourless
Potassium Nitrate	White Crystals	Odourless
Potassium Nitrite	Yellow/White Crystals	Odourless
Potassium Perchlorate	White/Colourless Crystals	Odourless
Sodium Azide	White Crystals	Odourless
Sodium Chlorate	White Crystals	Odourless
Sodium Nitrate	White Crystals	Odourless
Sodium Nitrite	Yellow/White Crystals	Odourless
Sodium Perchlorate	White Crystals	Odourless
Sulphuric Acid	Colourless Liquid	Rotten Eggs
Urea	White Crystals	Ammonia

ADDITIONAL EXPLOSIVE CHEMICALS

Raise concern if found in any quantity

Acetic Acid	White Crystals	Vinegar
Alcohol (Ethanol, Methanol)	Colourless Liquid	Odourless
Anything Chlorate or Perchlorate		
Anything Nitrate		
Calcium Hypochlorate/Hypochlorite	White Granules	Bleach/Chlorine
Citric Acid	White Crystals	Odourless or Lemon
Ethylene Glycol	Colourless Liquid	Odourless
Glycerine	Colourless Liquid	Odourless
Hydrochloric Acid	Colourless Liquid	Bleach/Chlorine
Lead Nitrate	White Powder	Odourless
Mercury	Silver/Grey Liquid	Odourless
Methyl Ethyl Ketone	Colourless Liquid	Sweet
Pentaerythritol	White Crystals	Odourless
Potassium Permanganate	Purple/Brown/Grey	Odourless
Powdered Metals (Aluminium (Al), Magnesium (Mg), Magnalium (Al/Mg) Zinc (Zn)		
Sulphur	Yellow Crystals	Rotten Eggs